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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

November 22nd—28th, 1984
Volume 19, Number 47

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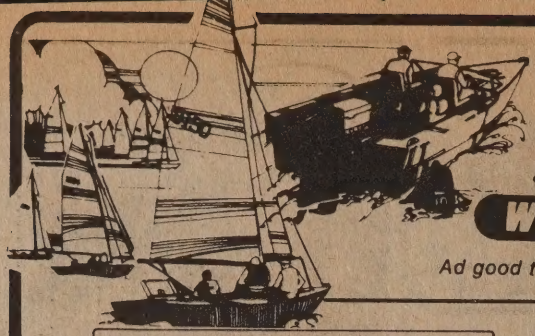

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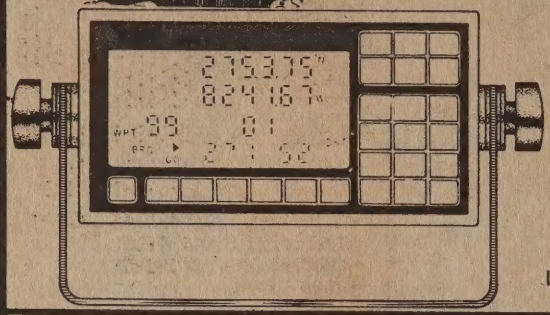

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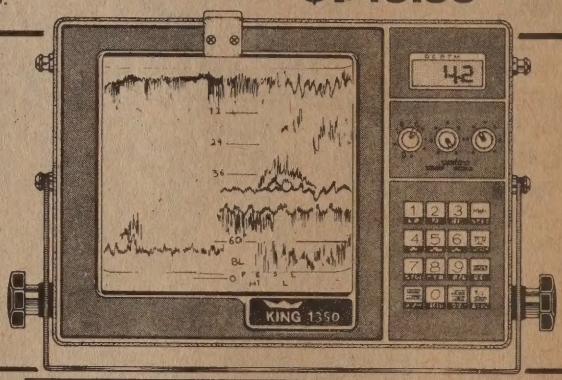

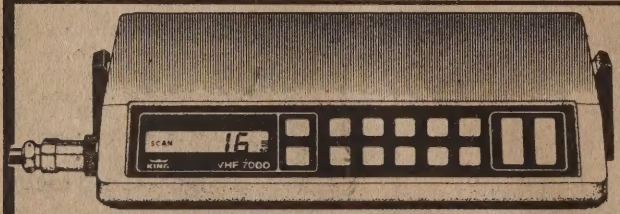

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND. METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 19, Number 47 November 22nd, 1984

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Surfcaster John Pfalzer gets in some final innings at Caumsett State Park. Despite the calendar and rapidly diminishing numbers of casters, there are still fish to be caught along our beaches. See this week's surf report for more details. Cover photo by John Pfalzer, Jr.

Publisher: Richard Reina

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The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two weeks in December by the L.I.F. Publishing Corporation, L.I.F. Building, Bridge Street, P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963. Telephone: 516-725-4200. Second Class Postage paid at Sag Harbor, New York. $.75 per copy, back issues $1. Subscriptions: 50 Issues, $17.50; 100 Issues, $33. Photographs and written contributions are welcomed. Unsolicited contributions become the property of The Long Island Fisherman. All contributions to be returned must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. All consideration will be given to these requests, however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both new and old addresses and sent to the Main Office. Allow two to four weeks for change. USPS 588-160.

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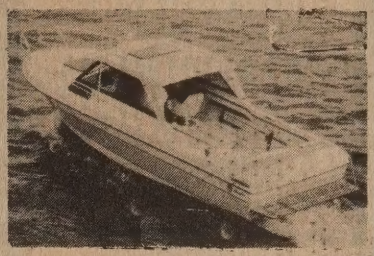

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IN MEMORIAM—ART JOHNSON
by Al Ristori

A tragic boating accident on Sunday night, November 11, claimed the life of one of the premier striped bass anglers on Long Island. Art Johnson made his reputation on the north shore before shifting his attention to the relatively unexploited big bass waters off Montauk Point. He and Bob Rocchetta were among the pioneers who developed the deep water eeling techniques which resulted in some outstanding night fishing even as striped bass were becoming rare in other areas. If the bass were there, you could bet that Art would be also—even if it involved driving back to his job as a music teacher (and a very good one!) at Sound Beach School. No one ever worked harder at his sport than Art Johnson and, unlike many others, he also spent much of his time trying to save the species he so treasured. Art researched his subject and kept coming up with plans that would relieve the pressure on the striped bass in ways which he felt would be equitable.

Anyone as intensely involved as Art Johnson was with striped bass fishing tends to take chances, and that one big wave from out of nowhere robbed us of a friend and superb angler. His loss will not be a total one if it serves as warning to the rest of us that the sea we love can also be a relentless enemy. Our condolences go to Ann Johnson and her children. Art's many friends can help in this tragic moment by contributing to the Arthur Johnson Memorial Fund, c/o Sound Beach School, 197 N. Country Rd., Miller Place, NY 11764.

NEW YORK CONTROLS ACID RAIN

New York State lawmakers added a new weapon in the fight to control acid rain, adopting on June 29th the first law in the U.S. specifically reducing emissions of sulfur dioxide (SE2). The bill passed by large marjorities in both legislative houses and was signed in August by Governor Cuomo.

The legislation requires a 245,000 ton reduction in SO2 emissions with the state by the early 1990s; 40 percent of this must be achieved by January 1, 1988. The bill orders the state to target maximum protection in sensitive areas such as the Adirondacks, Catskills, and Hudson Highlands. These areas get highly acidic rainfall—originating both in and out of New York—and hundreds of lakes are already acidified, nearly devoid of fish and other native life.

"New York's law, by itself, can't solve the problem," said scientist Dr. Michael Oppenheimer, "but it will slow the damage. It also demonstrates that New York will do its fair share to control acid rain. Now other states, particularly those in the Midwest, must follow New York's lead."

Oppenheimer noted the 245,000 ton-cut will reduce state power plant emissions to a rate of one pound of SO2 per million B.T.U. generated. "If we applied this same rate to all power plants in the East, we would achieve the 50 percent—or 12 million ton—SO2 reduction needed to protect sensitive waters," he said. "New York's law is a vital first step, but it is no substitute for federal legislation to achieve this essential goal."

NORTH SHORE BLUEFISH AND STRIPED BASS DERBY RESULTS

A Bass and Bluefish Derby held October 19th-21st between the Huntington Anglers, Harbor Anglers and Mill River Rod and Gun Club, with a Sunday morning breakfast held at the Harbor Boating Club, Huntington, New York produced the following winners:

First place Blue—John Maiorana, Huntington Anglers, 14 lb. 7 oz.

Second place blue—John Zwolinski, Mill River Rod and Gun, 12 lb. 2 oz.

First place Bass—Mike Nicoletto, Harbor Anglers, 7 lb. 3 oz.

RISTORI/ROCCHETTA FISHING SCHOOL AN IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

Al Ristori and Bob Rocchetta will be conducting a winter fishing school for the third year in 1985. though they will be back at their previous location at the Holiday Inn in Hauppage, there will also be a second school which will be more convenient for anglers in New York City and Nassau County. The second location will be at the Holiday Inn on Sunrise Highway in Rockville Centre. The Hauppauge sessions run every Wednesday from February 13 to March 20, while Rockville Centre will meet on Thursdays from February 7 to March 14.

The Ristori-Rocchetta course covers everything from basics up to advanced techniques for all species common to Long Island, inshore and offshore. The six-week course still runs only $60 for adults, with children under 16 and senior citizens over 65 at half-price. Space permitting, individual sessions are available at $15 each—with children and senior citizens again at half-price. Early registrations are advised, as space is limited at both locations.

Al Ristori is a well-known fisherman and full time outdoor writer for many national and regional magazines. In addition to being associate editor of The Fisherman, he's editor of the Fishing World Tackle Buying Guide, Metropolitan editor of Salt Water Sportsman and saltwater editor of Fishing World Ristori has fished

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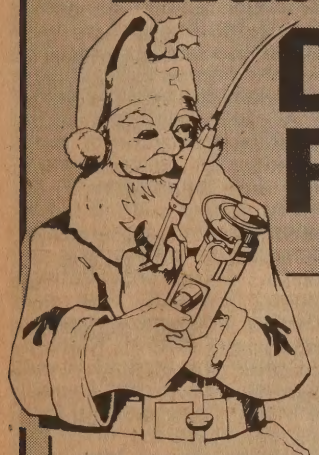

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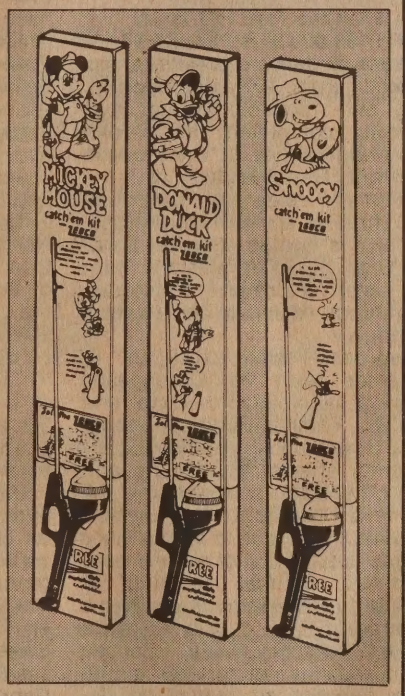

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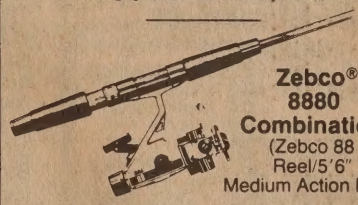

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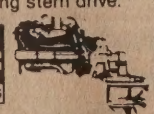

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over much of the world and is also a licensed captain who runs his Mako 25 charter boat "Sheri Berri" out of Montauk.

Bob Rocchetta gained fame as the captor of a 75 pound striped bass which broke one of the oldest records in the books. He's enjoyed great success as a charter skipper with catches of everything from flounder to giant tuna. Though he charters out of Montauk, Bob is also an expert on Long Island Sound and many other areas of Long Island.

The success of the original Ristori-Rocchetta fishing school was such that many of those attending last year were repeaters. Knowledge is the key to successful fishing, and those attending the school this winter will push themselves ahead of the pack with the information they receive from Ristori, Rocchetta and their many guest speakers.

EA STOCKS THE HUDSON WITH 160,000 STRIPED BASS

Dr. Loren D. Jensen, president, has announced that EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., has successfully completed the second season of operations at the Hudson River Striped Bass Hatchery with the production and release of more than 160,000 three to six inch fingerlings. The facility is located 40 miles north of New York City at Verplanck's Point on the eastern shore of the picturesque highlands region of the Hudson River Estuary.

Striped bass—called "rockfish" in other areas such as Chesapeake Bay—are a valuable commercial and sport fish. Their survival in some areas is threatened by unknown environmental effects, overfishing and pollution. In technical terms, the EA facility is a "Mitigation Hatchery," meaning its purpose is to help restore the natural population of striped bass through the annual stocking of healthy, productive individuals over a long period of time. "As a full-scale mitigation hatchery," Dr. Jensen says, "our facility not only serves the practical function of restocking depleted striped bass populations, but also performs applies research to advance the state of the art of intensive aquaculture of this very sensitive fish."

EA designed, constructed, and now operates the Striped Bass Hatchery with funding from a group of utility companies that operate electric generating facilities along the Hudson River. EA personnel connect broodstock from the Hudson, supervisir fertilization and hatching, and rear the fish until they're mature enough (3 to 6 in.) for release to complement the Hudson's natural striped bass spawn. Although these efforts primarily benefit the sprot and commercial fishermen along the Hudson River and Long Island Sound, hatchery-reared fish also contribute to the Atlantic coastal catch as far north as Nova Scotia.

EA scientists use data collected from the fish-production effort and various experimental studies to define and optimize techniques for three central hatchery processes: (1) spawning of adults, (2) rearing of larvae and juveniles in a controlled, high-density hatchery population, and (3) disease detection and control. They also study the relationship and relative contribution of hatchery-reared fish to the Hudson's native spawning stock. This work involves tagging the bass to allow researchers to determine which ones were released from the Hudson River Hatchery as well as precisely when they were released.

Dr. Jensen calls these efforts on the Hudson "A clear demonstration of the constructive application of technological skills in envorinmental engineering and aquaculture." As part of its work this year, EA has helped other research organizations by supplying young striped bass for their studies. These organizations have included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Columbia National Fish Hatchery and Leetown National Fisheries Center, the State of Rhode Island Natural Resources Department, the Maine Department of Fish and Game, the University of Rhode Island, the University of Maryland, and the Johns Hopkins University.

The hatchery is managed by EA's Northeast Regional Office in Middletown, New York, under the direction of Dr. Steven Jinks. Construction of the facility was supervised by Mr. David Santoro, Senior Vice President of EA Engineering Operations. Mr. William Dey is the technical director of the EA hatchery team, and Dr. Gerald Lauer, Senior Vice President, has been a key advisor throughout the project.

EA scientists are also engaged in other fisheries management programs for federal, state, and local agencies, corporate research and conservation groups. This work includes the conceptual design of a similar hatchery for Chinook salmon on the Upper Sacramento River in California in connection with a proposed hydropower plant.

EA Engineer, Science, and Technology, Inc. is a professional services firm with a technical staff of nearly 300 professionals with expertise in civil and environmental engineering, health sciences, toxicology, hydrology, geology, analytical chemistry, environmental and health risk analysis, and aquatic and terrestrial ecology. Corporate headquarters are in Baltimore, with regional offices in Middletown (New York), Chicago, San Francisco, Cincinnati, and Lincoln (Nebraska).

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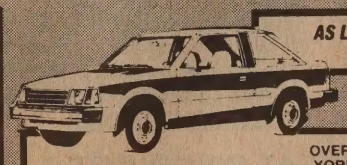

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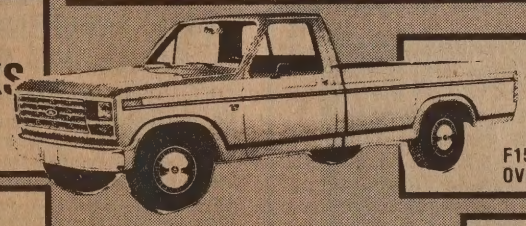

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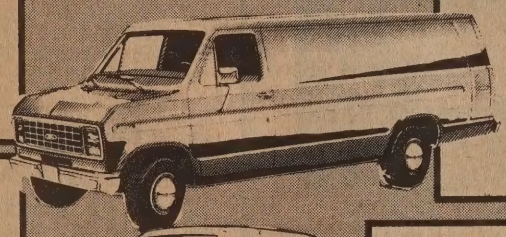

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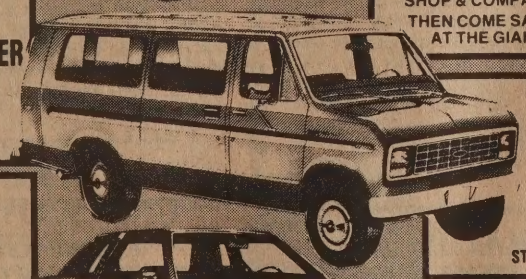

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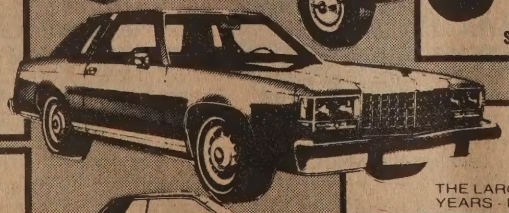

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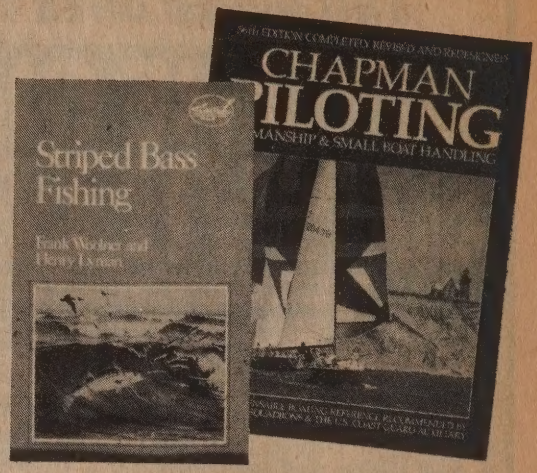

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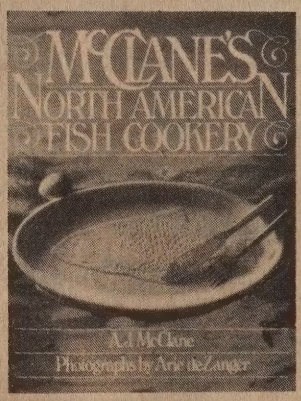

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LOOKING FOR THE CANADIAN

by Edward Hugo

As he turned off Route 537 onto the sand access lane that led to a boat launching area for Prospertown Lake, his thoughts were of the many times he had travelled this road.

The first trip was nearly ten years ago, when the lane was scarcely more than a deer trail. A smile crossed his face as he speculated at the number of mirrors and side moldings its twisting narrowness had claimed.

He was eager to catch a glimpse of the lake, for two years had passed since he had last seen it. He had fished most of the Central and South Jersey waters, but found none to be as impressive for its natural and unspoiled beauty as Prospertown Lake.

Suddenly it lay before him, with the sun sparkling off its tea-colored water. He belonged here, was content here, sheltered from the problems of the outside world.

Eight other vehicles were squeezed within the flat section of the point, but he found room for the pick-up and quickly stepped out. Every square inch of the ground's surface was covered with litter. Two large oaks, spray painted with obscenities, bore the scars of a confused mind.

As he walked to the water's edge, several large tires with rims were floating twenty yards from the shore. He was sickened and looked out upon the lake with the eyes of a father who had seen his child suffer some needless and incomprehensible indignity.

He hurried to unload the boat and equipment and reassured himself that this malignancy possibly had not reached the less accessible portions of the lake. As he began rowing, the bottom of the aluminum boat rang with a metallic clang as it passed over a pair of floating beer cans.

He remembered that once, seeing a group of sportsmen throwing beer cans out of their boat, he had stopped to admonish them, only to discover later that the ignition wires had been ripped from his truck. And these were the stewards of life's continuity on earth.

But he and the lake had shared many good memories: the many fish caught and released and the friendship with Skip, whose passionate love for the lake equalled his own. But Skip was gone now, and thinking of him reminded him of the big Canadian who had for years laid her eggs in the center of a cluster of logs and sticks in a large, hollow stump. To approach it required a laborious, scissoring effort, but none of this would be allowed if she was occupying the stump.

It had become a yearly ritual for them to check the nest during her absence. And on those fishless days, one of them would always remark that the day was not a waste because they had seen the Canadian's eggs, or better yet, her young.

As he oared within 30 yards of the stump and began to weave through the maze of sticks, it was obvious that the Canadian wasn't present. He thought that perhaps she was out gathering food for her young.

As the boat drew alongside the nest, his hands began to tremble with excitement and he carefully stood to look inside. It was difficult to see with the sun in his eyes, so he raised his right hand to shade its brightness, and there neatly arranged among last season's nesting material were five green beer bottles.

He sat quietly and was overcome with a sadness unlike any he had ever known. He was thankful that Skip would never see this.

He knew that the big Canadian would never return, and he knew that neither would he.

Every square inch of the ground surface was covered with litter.

Editor's Note: The author is a free-lance writer and photographer who lives in the pine barrens and is a bass fisherman and bow hunter. The term "Sportsmen" has been deliberately used in a negative context in the story, as Hugo estimates that less than five percent of fishermen are deserving of this widely misunderstood word. Think about it!

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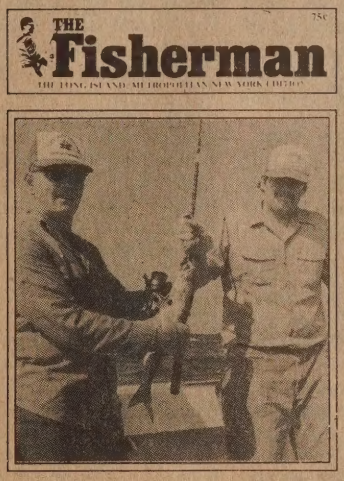

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PRIMED FOR COD

by Matt Ahern

The "Guru" of sinker bouncers outlines the basic requirements for catching the "winter king."

From Disko Troop, great cod hunter of Rudyard Kipling's immortal "Captains Courageous," to James B. Connelly's magnificent tales of Gloucester's Grand Banks dory fishermen, no fish has so excited the imagination of writers and fishermen as the cod.

So important are cod that over the centuries numerous "cod wars" have broken out over a country's sole fishing rights to newly-discovered cod banks. Minor skirmishes often developed, creating ill-feeling which still exists today. Indeed, not very long ago England and Iceland engaged in a set-to over codfishing rights that, for a time, threatened more dire results.

To understand how important a nation's fisheries are, we have but to look to our own backyard and recall the rumblings of contemporary fishermen as we sought a 200 mile limit in order to stop the raping of our own offshore fishery.

Yet, with all the pressure put upon them, cod are still caught in substantial numbers by thousands of local fishermen. By late October a few forerunners usually put in an appearance off Long Island and New Jersey, but it isn't until after the first week of November that fishermen have their best chance of returning home with their first cod of the season.

These early fish often range on open bottom quite close to shore in water from 40 to 50 feet and it is usually in these depths that experienced fishermen meet with success.

By the end of November, most of these cod will have moved to the offshore depths as the water cools more to their liking. Look for them in such areas as the Cholera Bank, the Southeast Grounds, The Farms, Angler Bank, Ambrose Tower, offshore Seabright, and the 17 Fathom Bank. Sunken wrecks in water over 50 feet often produce well at this time.

Tackle requirements for codfish are on the heavy side, which means that fishermen should not attempt to use light spinning outfits—in fact, in my estimation **any** spinning outfit used for cod is strictly a no-no. The conventional rod should have enough backbone to haul up a cod that may well go over the 40 pound mark, in water which may be as much as 100 feet deep—sometimes more.

The reel should be of the conventional, revolving spool type, capable of holding 150 yards of 30 pound test good quality monofilament line. It's smart to use the best you can afford, as it takes a well-made reel to winch a large cod to the surface—fishermen never know how large the next cod may be. While a star drag isn't strictly essential (I decked many a cod in the long ago using a wood or bakelite sidewinder), but it's a good idea to have as much going for you as possible.

Rigging for cod is simplicity itself. Some veteran cod hunters use but one hook, and they feel a 5/0 to 8/0 Sproat hook on an 18 inch, 40 pound test leader, placed about three-and-a-half feet above the sinker is best. These fellows often claim the high hook discourages most bottom feeders from taking hold, thereby giving cruising cod more opportunity to size up the bait.

They have a point, of course, but most fishermen employ the popular two hook or deep sea rig by placing a bottom hook four inches above the sinker, which aids in a possible bonus of ling and/or blackfish while waiting out their cod.

This lower hook should be a 2/0 to 4/0 Sproat. Cod will occasionally pick up a bottom bait and this hook is strong enough to handle cod should this happen. It is surprising how many large fish are caught on small hooks when handled properly.

Codfish are often "hardware conscious," and the experienced fisherman has learned to be fussy about his use of terminal tackle.

Three-way swivels can be used if desired. Be sure to secure with a correctly-tied Improved Clinch Knot. My choice, though, is to use a gadget known as the "Quick-Rig." These are available at most tackle shops and cost but a few pennies each. These "Quick-Rigs" do away with the necessity of tying knots which often cut into the line, weakening it appreciably and quite often costing fish—especially so when the antics of a large cod place much stress upon the monofilament line. If you are unsure just how to place a "Quick Rig" on your line, ask the man behind the counter to show you. The procedure takes but seconds.

Depending upon tidal currents and depth, sinker weight will vary. Most days, though, an eight or ten ounce bank sinker will be sufficient. Much codfishing is done over rocky ledges, rock-studded bottom, and the crumbling bones of ill-fated wrecks, so it is wise to bring along extra sinkers and hooks. (If you're party boat fishing, these can be purchased on board.)

When party boat fishing, a complete codfishing outfit can be rented on board for a nominal sum. Some fishermen think it wise to rent tackle when undecided whether to take up codfishing as a steady diet. And these fellows have a point, too.

But allow me to say this: Once such a fisherman has brought to gaff a good-sized cod, he will shortly thereafter find himself inside his local tackle shop, impatiently pawing through the display of rods and reels in his quest for suitable tackle. At this point, it is smart to enlist the aid of an experienced codfisherman to help make the selection. Failing this, the fisherman should discuss his needs with that most enlightened man behind the counter. He'll know exactly what is needed, and he'll give you a fair shake, too—have no fear.

Bait is seldom a problem when codfishing. Cod consider anything in the sea fair game if it will fit into its gaping mouth. Strips and chunks of bergall, herring (fresh), and squid are all good, but most popular is the easily obtained skimmer clam. Cod, as well as many bottom feeders, will rarely refuse a succulent slice of skimmer.

Many fishermen have the mistaken idea that because the cod is a large fish, it will accept only large baits. Totally untrue. One of the largest cod I've ever caught, well over 40 pounds, was taken on a #2 Virginia blackfish hook baited with an inch slice of conch.

This doesn't mean that conch is the ideal bait, but what it does mean is that the fisherman who uses half an average-sized skimmer, or a third of a large one, is more likely to get action. Yes, I know fishermen catch many cod with outsized baits, but I can only tell you what works for me. I've seen cod caught on chicken heads (white ones only) by enterprising fishermen, but I don't believe I could make money doing so. Too many "unknown" factors enter into this exotic bait selection, therefore for all-around codfishing, I believe it is best to stick with what works. Just remember a tip from Old Matt: cod, even with their enormous appetite, will often shy away from large baits. I've seen this happen too many times not to be impressed by it.

Most codfishing is done from party boats, and it is the captain's responsibility to find the fish. And most

times he does (who can tell what fish do from day to day), most times he is successful simply because he's been codfishing for years and years and has developed a sixth sense that puts him over the fish.

Now, I don't want to mislead you here. Because cod are decked doesn't mean you will be in on the decking. There's been many a disappointed codfisherman—especially in the beginning of a codfishing career. But then to sort of even the score I've seen days when the novice has not only won the pool to the chagrin of the "pool sharpies" on board, but has even been high hook. True, this only happens on occasion, but the ability to do so is always there. All in all, a beginner's chance of getting cod is good.

When cod begin to take hold in earnest, many party boats leave with capacity crowds before the scheduled time (there's no point in remaining at the slip when skippers have on board all they're legally allowed to carry).

To avoid such disappointment, several things can be done. One is to make it a point to arrive early and select your spot at the rail. (Most veteran codfishermen do this.) Another way is to choose a day during the week when there are fewer fishermen on board. And also, several fishing buddies can charter a codfish trip. This is an ideal way to avoid crowded conditions and assure yourself ample fishing room. I believe it is worthwhile to give charter boats a try now and then.

Fishermen often disagree over which section of a party boat is best for codfishing. Most consider the stern to have the edge and you will often find many fishermen there—especially if you are a johnny-come-lately.

There is no doubt in my mind that stern-fishing will provide more shelter on those windy, cold days and perhaps have an advantage over other fishermen by being in a possible chum line when anchored over open bottom or rocky bottom. However, when I used to mate on party boats, the bow was my choice even when the stern was available. I enjoyed the freedom of movement I had, and the ease with which I could place a bait where it was wanted without interfering with others. I found fishing to be just as good from the bow as it was in the stern—sometimes better.

Stern selection isn't too important when wreck fishing aboard a party boat, for then every fisherman has an equal chance. Many times when wreck fishing, depending how the boat is anchored, midships is often the best spot.

This fall and winter, when king cod investigates Long Island's south shore waters with his bearded snout, make it a point to be there. Not only will you understand the lure of the cod, the lure which has brought me down to the sea in ships for centuries, but I'm almost positive you will become a confirmed codfisherman.

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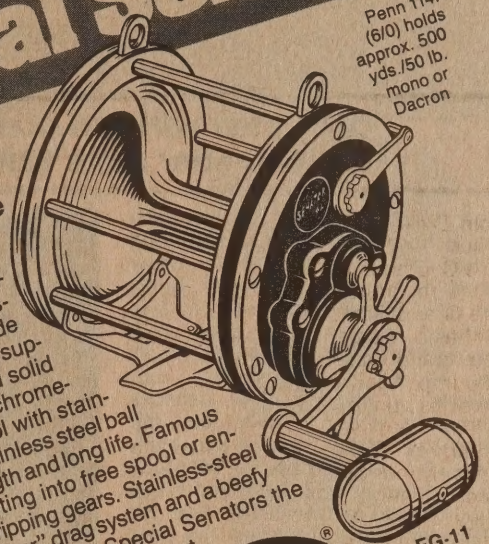

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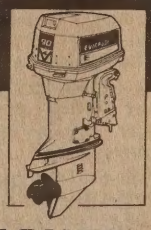

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THANKSGIVING BASS

by D.W. Anthony

Dedicated surfmen continue to prowl the Island's beaches long after more sane souls have given up the hunt.

Fifteen or twenty years ago few salt-water fishermen in our area continued the late fall battle against our briny friends. In the surf, even fewer. Sure, here and there a die-hard or two continued to fish and they were rewarded wtih fish. They kept their little secret to themselves, too. However, in the last few decades information about quality late fall fishing has spread to more and more people. It's routine now for Montauk charter boats to seek bass and blues through most of the month and for surf casters not to hang up the gear until the days after Thanksgiving.

About ten years ago, surf fishermen started thinking about catching bass around Thanksgiving in numbers. No one, or perhaps only a few, thought about catching bluefish. That's all changed. Last fall I caught my last big blue the eve of Thanksgiving, and probably could have continued to pick on fish into early December if I hadn't hung up the equipment.

Okay, blues are also available, but the topic of this discussion is striped bass. That discussion gets a little harder today because there are fewer and fewer bass to catch. However, there remain enough possibilities to pique the interest of the serious fisherman.

Let's begin by assessing the current situation. The large fall runs of bass along the south shore are all but extinct, so that limits our range. However, large and school bass remain available from Montauk surf spots into December. Although the Chesapeake stocks are way down, the Hudson fish have been spawning reasonably well, so that makes the western Sound a good bet.

That's the summary rundown; now let's look at a few specifics. We'll begin with Montauk. Because Montauk is surrounded by water on all sides, the late fall night air can chill to the bone and, of course, if you live in a western town the trip will be long. When you get there, most likely most service stores will be closed. I'm not trying to turn you off, but if you intend to catch that Thanksgiving bass at Montauk you had better know what you're up against. If you own a four wheel drive with proper permits, that's the best bet; yet motel rates usually tumble this time of year so that they might be within the budget of the average surf fisherman. Bring plenty of warm clothes.

A trophy striper on a frosty November night makes it all worthwhile.

In the daytime try the south beaches, since schools of bass rumble down the beach now and then. On incoming tide work under the light, which isn't too hard to fish in the day thanks to the improved visibility. If the fish are on the surface try poppers, but if they're deep have a selection of tins. The regulars will give you a quick lesson in how to use tins around the rock-strewn Light, so stand back and watch a minute. At night the possibilities increase. Shagwong, North Bar, False Bar, Scott's, the Light, Turtle Cove and various spots under the bluffs will produce. Sometimes these spots will produce in the day, too—if the sky is overcast and the weather generally snotty enough. At night, most of the regulars prefer swimming plugs—darters and bottle plugs and at times the seven inch Rebel and RedFin. Most of the fishermen who know Montauk prefer big sticks to handle both large plugs and big fish. At times, the line-up will be using lighter stuff, but bring a big outfit so that if all the boys are using the big stuff you'll fit in on the cast and retrieve. Generally fish the north side of the point on the falling tide and the south side on the rise.

If Montauk is too much for you at

this time of the year, you can consider the possibilities of success a little closer to home. The last few years the beaches around Moriches have produced quality bass at a regular rate. No bonanzas, mind you, but a steady pick. If you live in Brookhaven it may be worth a daytime trip with a few tins to try for a good bass to grace the angler's well-being, if not the Thanksgiving table.

Further to the west there will still be a few large bass lingering in the inlets. Work Atoms, Super Strike, Danny, Rebel and Redfin swimmers very, very slowly. In other words, all swimmers could produce a bass or two at night this time of year, so bring a selection, try different plugs, and work them very slow.

Access to western Sound beaches is always a problem. However, if you live in one of the towns down that end, your access to town beaches is virtually assured, If you don't, you may still be able to fish this time of year since many towns no longer ticket unpermitted vehicles. It might be a good idea to call the village hall first and ask. If you're quiet and clean, most towns won't object to a fisherman or two this time of year.

It will be now that many Hudson bass will be traveling down Long Island Sound towards their wintering grounds in New York Bight or the Hudson itself. The fish tend to get concentrated this time of year between Eatons Neck and the Throgs Neck Bridge and thus the odds of finding a hungry school improve. That the bass are hungry is a real plus this time of year. Remember, the fish are trying to put on some fat layers to get them through the winter; so if you do find a school, it isn't likely that those fish will be picky. In this neck of the woods, tins and small popper are best in the day, while at night five to seven inch Rebels, Redfins, Hellcats, etc., work best. Again, work the plug slowly at night. Prybil Beach, Stahle's Beach, and Center Island Beach are a few example of relatively easy access locations that produce well this time of year.

Although the Hudson bass are tending to concentrate into the western Sound, there are still some east end locations that will hold bass well into the first week or two of December. The fish are held because of huge quantities of sand eels which teem along the beaches now, and even though the water is getting colder, the drive to fatten up is stronger than the drive to get to warmer water. Eventually, the water will get cold enough that they'll leave those sand eels behind, but around Thanksgiving they are still usually there and cooperative. These will be mostly school fish, but the action can be frantic on tins, diamond jigs with tubes on the hook, and at times poppers. Regulars ride from beach to beach, between Riverhead and Orient Point, looking for signs of active fishermen, screaming birds, and ruffled water. In daytime, overcast and a wind-chopped sea often outproduce the sunny calm days, but not always.

Most towns out east relax their restrictions in the fall so that even if you don't live there, you can usually fish these beaches as long as you respect the rights of others and leave the place as you fond it.

Big sticks are often favored now over small lighter tackle because even though the fish may be mostly schoolies, the weight of tins and the weather conditions may call for hardier equipment. Then, too, most regulars know that it's still possible to pick up a cow bass or a stray teen-sized bluefish and they want to be prepared. In addition, most of these beaches are a bit rocky and heavier tackle along with 20 pound test line helps to avoid the loss of expensive tins and plugs.

Almost no one baitfishes along east end beaches this time of year, and that's probably because standing around in the cold is less than desirable and because when the bass are found they generally are eager for artificials.

This has been a sketchy rundown of the possibilities for a Thanksgiving bass. Some may argue that they would have preferred heavy detail about one place. Maybe so, but most of the surf fishermen still on the beach that late in the last few years seem to agree that there are a number of places the fish might show up in numbers. The key ingredients are that good possibilities exist this late, to keep looking at the beaches, to keep your eyes and ears alert for information, to question local tackle shops for specifics, and to be ready to pounce like a cat when it looks like a late season run is on!

The fish are on the move, the weather isn't at all predictable, and the bass stocks are down. Thus, things change too fast. I remember a few years back a lot of us figured we really had something using Ava 27 jigs with dull red tubes to do a job on the fish. The next year the bass didn't work that beach, but did show up elsewhere and wanted Hopkins without hair or feathers. Therefore, heavy details may be an illusion and the fisherman needs to work with what's available this season, this week, this tide. Putting your time in always keeps you close to the subtleties of the game.

One last word, try releasing those bass that you don't need. Eat one here and there, but the ocean needs those bass a lot more than your cat or the neighbors. Also remember that the minimum size limit is 24 inches this year. We've been told that DEC officers will be out in force looking for violations. Don't be caught with egg on your face. Instead, help the bass—release them.

Good fishing, and if you get one nice fish that the family might enjoy eating, then I hope your Thanksgiving bass graces your Thanksgiving table this year.

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SOUTHWEST REEF BLACKFISHING

by Wally Powell

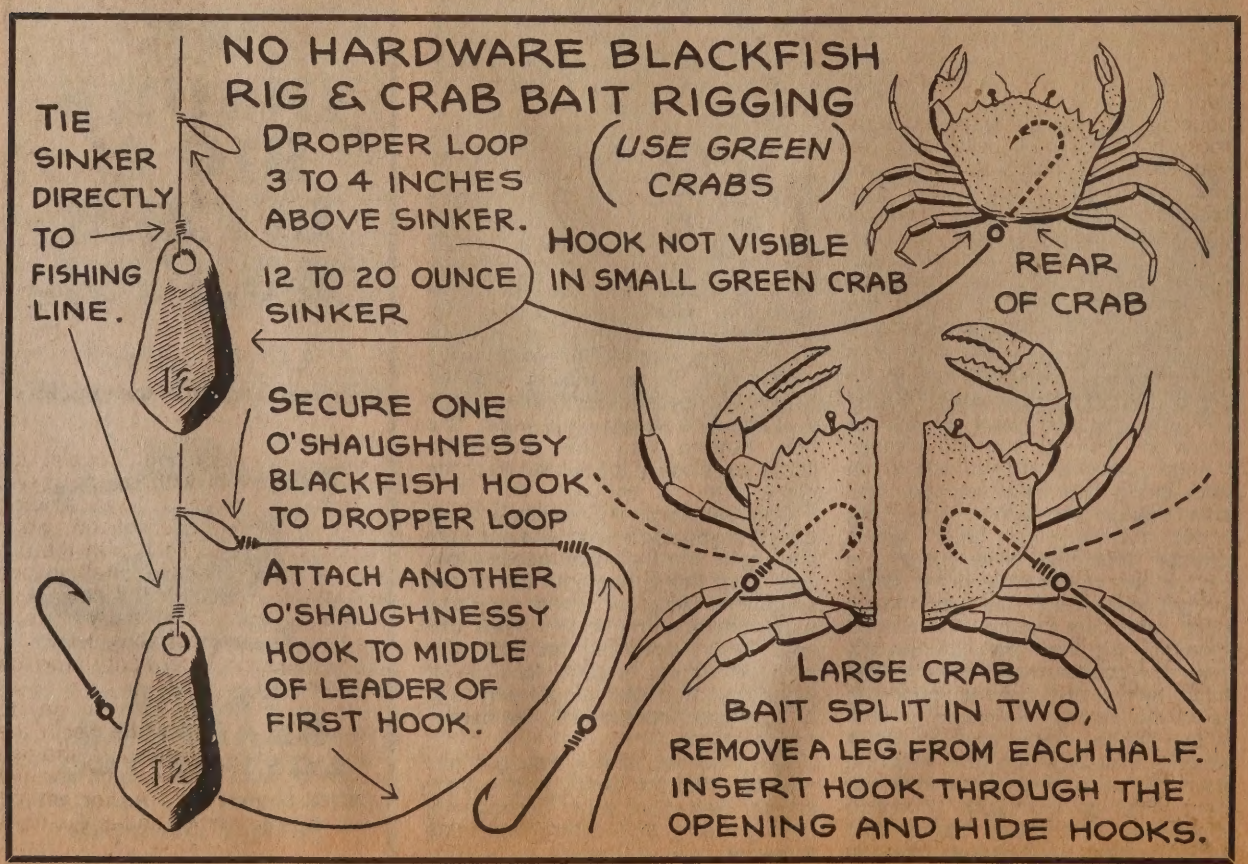
Situated eight miles to the north of Horton's Point, this tautog hot spot is well within reach of north shore boatmen.

Well, the time is rapidly approaching, unfortunately and too quickly, that we will be looking at the old winter doldrums and thinking about those nice spring and summer days of fishing gone past and coming up. As the 1984 fishing season winds down here in Long Island Sound, we still have some fantastic fall fishing to look forward to. The fishing I am referring to is the pursuit of the tasty tautog or as it is commonly referred to, blackfish.

These fierce combatants seem to come out of their summer hiding spots as the leaves begin to turn to the colors of autumn. One particular area that these blackfish seem to be in abundance at this time of year, is Southwest Reef, located off the shore of Clinton, Connecticut and eight miles north of Horton's Point. This area produces good numbers and nice sizes of these tasty fillets. Southwest Reef produces excellent blackfishing through October and November and into December providing we have a mild fall. To anyone reading this article, if you can fish Southwest Reef at this time of the year, do it! It's a fantastic spot and you'll be pleased with the results.

To begin with, I'm sure that anyone who pursues blackfishing will have their favorite haunts; SW Reef is mine. As the waters of the Sound begin to cool down, the blackfish seem to come out in force and they feed in areas where there are wrecks, reefs and rocky bottoms present. SW Reef is just what the doctor ordered: nice and rocky!

When fishing this area, anywhere you throw the anchor will produce. I like to fish this area with a medium action rod, my jigging stick, with my Daiwa 240 Magforce reel, spooled with 20 lb. mono. Tied directly to the end of my line is a sinker. The sinkers we usually use here are in the 12 to 20 ounce category. The reason you have to use a lot of lead here, is the fact that the water really moves here, and you have to use a lot of weight to hold bottom in order to make a dent in the blackfish populus. When the tide is slack, you can usually get away with 12 ounces, but when the tide is moving, you'll have to add more weight. Now approximately three to


NO HARDWARE BLACKFISH RIG & CRAB BAIT RIGGING
TIE SINKER DIRECTLY TO FISHING LINE.
DROPPER LOOP 3 TO 4 INCHES ABOVE SINKER.
(USE GREEN CRABS)
12 TO 20 OUNCE SINKER
HOOK NOT VISIBLE IN SMALL GREEN CRAB
REAR OF CRAB
SECURE ONE O'SHAUGHNESSY BLACKFISH HOOK TO DROPPER LOOP
ATTACH ANOTHER O'SHAUGHNESSY HOOK TO MIDDLE OF LEADER OF FIRST HOOK.
LARGE CRAB BAIT SPLIT IN TWO, REMOVE A LEG FROM EACH HALF. INSERT HOOK THROUGH THE OPENING AND HIDE HOOKS.

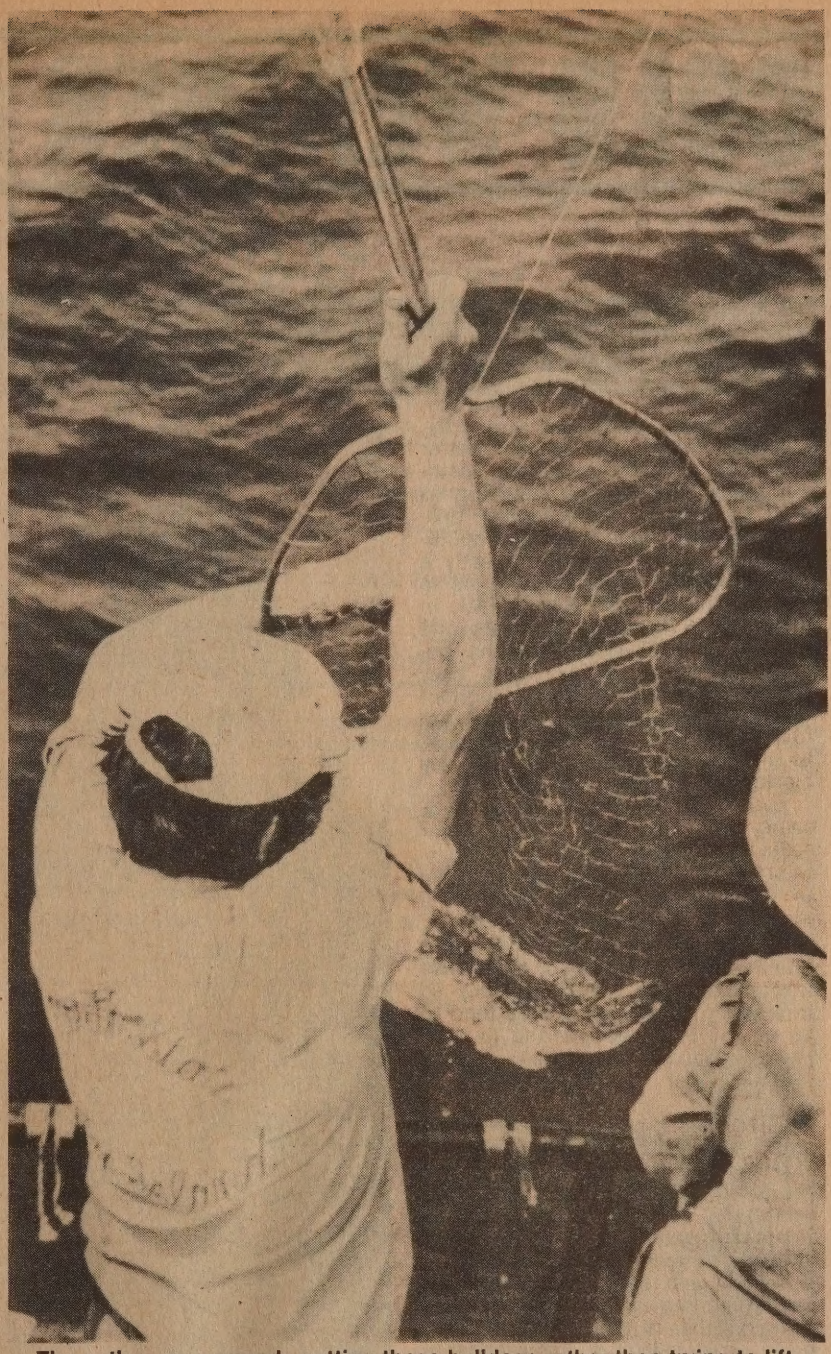
four inches above the sinker, I tie a dropper loop and I secure one O'Shaughnessy blackfish hook, attached halfway down the leader of the secured hook, I tie another hook. Once again, I am a user of rigs with no hardware. The less gaudy and more natural the bait is presented, in my opinion, results in more fish in the boat. The blackfish rigs sold in your local tackle shops are also very good, but I'm into the no-hardware syndrome; the choice is yours.

Once you are set up, bait selection is next. It has been my experience when blackfishing, that green crabs are the way to go here at the reef, they definitely have been the most productive. We have used fiddlers, sandworms and clams, but green crabs are numero uno! If the green crab is on the small side, I will use the whole crab, attaching the hook by impaling it into the rear end of the crab with the hook not being visible. If the crabs are on the large side, I split the crab in two, securing the hook by putting it through **one** of the crab's leg sockets, which I have removed, once again trying to hide the hook as best as possible. It is here that some fishermen may differ on the bait's presentation. Some people like to remove the legs, the claws and the shell (back) of the crab. Any combination of the above does not present the bait in its natural fashion and in my opinion, it's just a free lunch for those bait stealing bergalls. Try and leave your crab bait looking like it is supposed to be a crab!

Now after you have baited up and dropped your offering into the water, don't just stick your rod in the rod holder and wait for something to happen. At all times you should hold your rod, slightly lifting it and bouncing your rig along the top of the rocky bottom. You'll be able to feel your sinker bouncing along and you will gradually get the feel for the rocky terrain below. Holding your rod and getting the feel of what your rig is doing below, will result in more blacks caught, and less hang-ups. It almost goes without saying that when blackfishing you are going to lose some rigs, so bring extra lead and blackfish hooks, and by using the above technique of "getting the feel," you will drastically cut down on hang-ups and loss of tackle.

Blacks often take aim on your bait offering in one healthy gulp. When you feel this hit, try and drive the hook home; remember, the blackfish's mouth is a tough one, so you have to try and set that hook(s) with a good steady yank on your rod. If you miss the initial strike, let your bait back down, chances are in your favor that the black is still there and he will come back again and take another swipe at your bait if he didn't clean the hook(s) the first time around.

Once you have a hook-up, you're in for quite a little battle if you are using light gear. Blackfish are very good battlers especially when they know they've been nailed. Once Mr. Snaggle Teeth knows he's in trouble, he heads for home, some hole or crevice in the rocks. Keep a tight line, no slack and keep that rod tip up! Don't horse him to the surface, keep steady pressure on him and reel him up also in a steady manner.



The author recommends netting those bulldogs rather than trying to lift them aboard.

When blackfishing Southwest Reef or anywhere for that matter, and you have some nice blacks coming to surface, half the battle has been won. The other half is getting them into the boat. It is here that I think an invaluable piece of equipment that should be included in your blackfishing arsenal and that is landing net. Once you have your fish to the surface, use the net rather than trying to hoist him aboard. I've seen and dropped too many fish myself with the hoist and swing aboard method. Use a landing net to finish your encounter when fishing for blacks. Then with the use of a net you won't have to tell anyone at dockside, "You should have seen the huge black that got away," you'll have the actual proof aboard.

My net is now a permant fixture on my boat.

So in closing, if you can get to Southwest Reef, it will be worth the trip. At this time of the year, the fish are here in abundance and for the most part, good size. As for eating, they don't come much better. So, tight lines and good luck.

COLD WEATHER BASSIN'

by Atley Fall

Don't be too hasty about stowing you bass fishing gear. Some of the finest late season bassin' is still to come.

By definition, November is a grey, overcast month; a month better known for chilly temperatures, scathing winds, and sporadic snowflurries than for fishing. Nevertheless, despite its less-than-glittering reputation, the eleventh month is really a fairly productive time for anglers to fish for largemouth bass. In fact, in many ways, November rivals the fishing of the warmer months because, in cooler temperatures, bass are more inclined to feed throughout the entire daylight period, and not just on the outer perimeters of dusk and dawn, as they do during the sweltering dog days of summer.

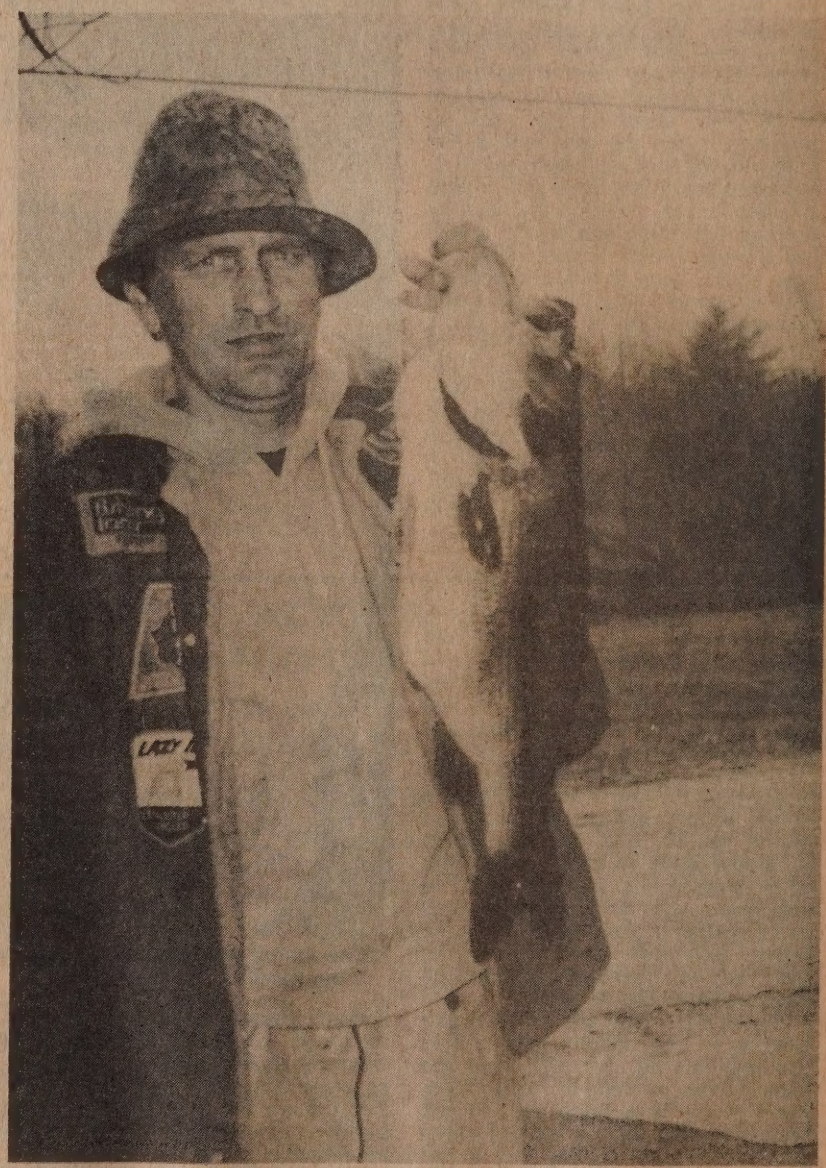
Now, this isn't to suggest that cooler days and falling water temperatures place fishermen in a "can't-miss" type of scenario, because two or three chunky bodied bass on a stringer is a fine day's catch, by November standards. But it's not the quantity, it's the quality of these bass that makes late season fishing so interesting. Late season bass tend to be on the hefty side, owing to their frequent feeding rampages, as they fatten up for the bleaker days of winter.

Owing to dipping temperatures, and these fishes' insatiable appetite, November bass tend to live a two phase life. That is, they spend their time either skulking in deep, obstruction laced waters, or prowling weed-choked shallows in search of prey.

Taking that overview, when bass are inhabiting deeper waters, they remain rather sluggish, and idle time away amid heavy concentrations of rocks, dense vegetation, and other bottom debris. Here, in rather gloomy surroundings, bass usually succumb to a self-induced trance of sorts, and are content to revel in their easily triggered stupor, until resurgent hunger pains prompt the fish into another feeding frenzy.

When bass are lying in these deep waters, it's an ideal time for fishermen to work the depths with night crawlers. The continual wiggling of a lightly hooked nightcrawler is a highly disturbing sight to a sluggish, bottom dwelling bass, and the irritated bass may tolerate the night crawler's antics for a considerable period of time, before retaliating against the rather sleek-bodied trespasser.

When the bass is finally provoked to action, the enraged fish will usually set upon the nightwalker and stealthfully swim away with it.



This big hawg was taken on a cold November day.

Even bass in a vengeful frame of mind take night crawlers rather slowly. And fishermen can usually distinguish between the slow, uniform feed out of line indicating a bass strike and the rapid, erratic run of smaller panfish inhabiting the deeper waters. Because of this marked sluggishness, a fisherman shouldn't set the hook too quickly. Conversely, an angler who allows a fish to run with an excess of slack line is inviting a snag, and eventually, a lost fish.

Interestingly enough, late season bass seldom surface, leap, or tail-walk when hooked in deep waters. Strugg-

ling fish save these last ditch tactics until they reach the shallows, or avoid them altogether in cooler temperatures.

When the bass finally yields to the pressure of the rod, it will grudgingly move towards the shoreline, twisting its silverish body feverishly in convulsing poses in an effort to bull its way to freedom.

Then, at the sight of the fisherman, the fish will lunge towards deeper waters. This surge, unless it is an exceptionally large bass, is the death throes of the fight, and at the climax of its run, the fish should be led to the net as smoothly and quickly as possible.

It's worth noting that while deep waters generally harbor the greater percent of these fish, some bass do move into the shallows, from time to time. These restless fish can be found near ambush cover, especially rock clusters with good baitfish populations.

For this reason, spinners and lures, cast at slightly vertical angles along the shoreline, offer twilight bass fishermen a chance to tag into foraging fish.

It's a good idea to work the weed beds slowly and carefully, casting spinners and other lures repeatedly in the same areas of water, until the irritation factor triggers a savage hit from a bass.

Broken-back Rapalas, large silver Phoebes and most notably, the #2 Mepps, with a red and white blade are among the top fish getters during the tag end of the season.

Bass, feeding in the shallows during cooler periods have a curious trait of trailing lures a long way before striking. Indeed, many fish viciously attack slowly retrieved spinners within the shadow of a wading fisherman's body.

Granted, this late in the season bass don't come easy. Determined anglers seldom catch more than three or four fish a day, on a good day. But late season bass usually tip the scale a little more than the summer fish, and some of the better fish are caught during November.

The best times to fish the shorelines are dictated by the weather. If the daytime temperatures remain on the mild side, bass feed as though it's still summer, and are most active during the morning and again at dusk. When the temperatures fall to say, the 50 degree range for several days, mid-afternoon might be the most opportune time to wet a line.

Rain, this late in the season, usually has an adverse affect on the fishing, as bass seem to feed more actively when the weather is clear.

We have reached the twilight hour of the open water fishing season; a time when the warm hours of the days have dwindled to a precious few. For this is a time period tucked neatly between the vanishing cusp of autumn and the bleakness that is winter. This ia time to think fishing for twilight season bass.

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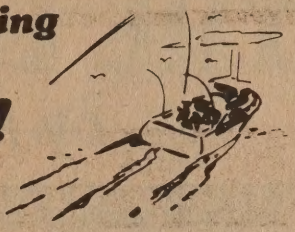

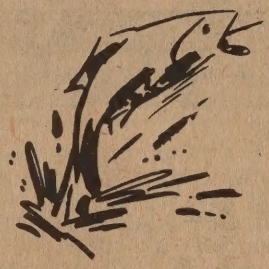

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WIRE LINE: THE EQUALIZER

by Russ Wilson

Late season trolling can be very rewarding, providing you go about it in the right manner.

Saltwater fishermen who probe the coastal waters during the tag end of the season need every bit of help they can get to put fish in the box. Wire line trolling is one of the tricks that has kept us from coming in with a clean fish box many, many times and I feel it is one technique that no sportsman should ignore.

Generally, weakfish, big slammer blues and striped bass will migrate south during late September, October and November. if the weather is unusually mild, some fish may linger through the first week or two of December.

These late season fish are usually on the prowl and will eat most anything that does not eat them first. Blues, in particular, are savage killers by instinct. They will attack, kill and eat and then do it all over again, seemingly just for the sheer pleasure of seeing their victims die. Unfortunately, these bloody massacres normally take place below the surface where they go unnoticed by fishermen who are probing the surface strata.

You can cash in on the bluefish bonanza if you present your lure at fish eye level. This is not quite as easy as it may sound. Blues that are plundering the baitfish hordes 20 to 40 feet below the surface leave no telltale signs. Nor do they broadcast their presence by letting any of their prey escape to the upper depths where gulls can reveal the slaughter.

If you want these fish you've got to stoop to their level and one of the best ways I know of to accomplish this is to use a short single strand wire line to take the lures down to a pre-determined depth. A good rule of thumb to follow is: each 50 feet of wire line will carry a lure down five feet. This means a hundred foot shot of single strand will drop the lures 10 feet below the surface and 200 feet will put the lure at the 20 foot depth.

There is more to wire line trolling than just the standard 50 to 5 equation. First, every lure has some weight. Plugs constructed of plastic or wood will have some built-in buoyancy even though they may weigh two or three ounces. This buoyancy will keep the lure from going any deeper than the five feet each 50 foot shot of wire line is going to take it. Bucktails, weighted surgical tube lures and metal spoons or plugs which have a built-in diving lip will run much deeper when used with identical lengths of single strand.

That's why some wire line trollers catch and others do not. The trollers who know what's happening down below them are going to do a lot of catching while the guy who goes about wire line trolling in a haphazard manner is not.

We do a lot of wire line trolling around the structure areas. Often water depth over the highest point on the structure will not exceed 20 feet while the surrounding waters may drop off to more than 40 or 50 feet. The game fish will generally set up residence near the structure. Sometime they will lay on the down-side and at other times, they may be found hanging right at the uppermost peak.

Trolling rods set up with 200 feet of wire will place the lures too deep for the high structure, but are perfect for putting a lure down just a little below the highest point of the spot you hope to find fish feeding. I'll usually rig my trolling outfits with 150 feet of 40 pound test single strand stainless steel, and attach it via an Albright knot to the backing. A 15 foot leader of 60 pound test clear monofilament finishes the basic trolling setup. You can attach your tube rigs, spoons, plugs or metals to the leader with a small snap swivel or just tie the lure direct by using a Uni-Knot that has not been pulled snug to the lure.

If we are fishing places where the lures must go deeper than 20 feet, we'll use trolling drails to add enough weight to take the lures down. A four ounce drail should carry a lure down about five feet. Hence, two drails will give an additional ten feet of depth to your lures and four drails will carry them down 20 feet for a total depth of 40 feet. If the fish are any deeper than

This big slammer smacked a tube rig fished 20 feet below the surface on a blustery November morning.

40 feet you are better off using downriggers to present the lures.

You can experiment with lead core line, Monel, braided wire or copper wire. We've seen each in use and cannot find any noticeable difference when using any of the above-mentioned materials. The wire is, however, less expensive than some other materials and once you learn how to handle it, you won't get kinks or twists that could weaken the wire.

There is a little finesse required when playing single strand off the reel. Allow it to spin—free spool style—off the reel and you're sure to get some backlashes that can cause a magician to lose his cool. Drop it back with too much pressure and it takes forever to get a couple hundred feet of it off the reel.

We've been using a simple technique for the better part of 30 years and I do not think there is a more foolproof way to fish wire line. First, put the reel clicker into gear so the line does not spin freely off the spool. Then, drop the lures into the water and pull off 15 to 20 feet of wire by hand. Once you have some wire in the water the rest will spool off the reel in a steady stream due to the amount of water pressure that builds up around the line and at the front of the lure.

We allow all of the wire line to clear the rod guides. This cuts down on guide wear and does not cause undue fatigue on the wire by having it constantly rub against the guides as the lures work their magic.

In the coming weeks some of the biggest bluefish of the season will be gorging themselves on the multitude of baitfish that are following the southern migratory routes. By rigging with wire and knowing how to use it correctly, you should catch your share of those greedy slammers.

I have not gotten into trolling speed because this is a subject that really cannot be answered in blanket style. Each and every boat will troll differently under the varying conditions that are common during late season. Your boat may track perfectly at 1,000 RPMs, while a similar boat that's set up with a larger or smaller motor may behave entirely differently under the same circumstances.

The only solution to finding the RIGHT trolling speed is to drop the lures into the water and watch to see how they work at the speed you are running. If they seem sluggish you'll have to give the motor a little more RPMs and if they are working too frantically you'll have to back off on the throttle until the lures look like they are doing their job as they should.

As an example, I previously owned a three cylinder outboard that trolled tube rigs to perfection when the engine was humming along at 1500 RPMs. The motor I now have is a mite larger and at 1500 RPMs those lures would be jumping out of the water. With the new rig, I keep the tach at 900 to 1000 RPMs and find it's as close to perfection as I'm likely to get.

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AND MORE!

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

by Andy Regina

The waders felt strange. First of all, they were too big for him. He had lost about 60 pounds during the past year, going from 240 or so and a size 48 waist to 180 pounds and a svelte 40 inches around the middle. Oh, the boots fit well enough all right, but the waders themselves were ridiculous. He was reminded of the time his kid brother "borrowed" his waders without asking. He was so angry he could spit, but laughed instead, at the sight of that skinny kid with the waders wrapped around almost twice—held up by his web belt. In the second place, his chest-highs felt cold and clammy. He had not worn them in a long time, and had forgotten that old, familiar feeling you got when you put on waders in cold weather. Yeah, that was it. He had gotten to be a stranger to the beach; he had been away too long. 'Too **damned** long,' he thought.

His trouble had started a couple of years earlier, when he was undergoing treatment for chronic psoriasis and had accidentally gotten a serious sunburn from an ultra-violet lamp. This led to a case of sun poisoning, which then developed into a skin cancer. It was on his butt, of all places, yet he could understand that because that truly was one place where the sun never shines and it could be a highly sensitive area. He had the cancer removed in the doctor's office. It was really no big deal; hardly as big as a match head. Only thing was, it took a long time to heal. Several months afterward, another match head popped up, right near where the first one had been. Again, he had it removed by the dermatologist and again, it was slow to heal. This time it seemed to get worse instead of better. It got a little larger and a lot sorer, but he foolishly let it go, believing that it would ultimately be all right.

"What a damned fool I was," he thought. "How dumb can a guy be? No damned cancer ever went away by itself!" Yet, for one reason or another, he neglected it until it became a serious ulcer. This time his doctor advised him to consult a plastic surgeon; the cancer had done too much damage. It couldn't be treated at the office any longer. Finally, when all the arrangements were made for the testing and the eventual surgery that would be required, a couple of months flew by the boards. It was June when he was admitted to the hospital; it was another three weeks before the first operation. A couple of weeks after that, as he was recuperating from the surgery, he developed a painful lump in his right groin. It proved to be malignant, so he underwent another operation for the removal of the infected lymph nodes. He spent another three or four weeks in the hospital before he was discharged; then underwent two and one-half months of daily radiation treatments as an out-patient. When the treatments were finished, it was almost Thanksgiving.

He'd battled everyone in his desire to go fishing; he was still not fit to return to work yet and he was going crazy hanging around his apartment all day long. He badgered the doctors, argued with his sons, and drove his poor wife crazy, 'til they finally relented and gave in. Now, even though it was very late in the season, he finally got his way. He was going to go fishing come hell or high water. He was going to get back on the beach again, even if it was the last thing he did. He picked an unusually warm, sunny Tuesday for his venture; it was too cold for him now to think about fishing at night, although nighttime would probably be the best time to score. And if he didn't score, so what? The important thing was that he would be out fishing again—right?

It was a little frustrating, trying to select the proper tackle. He had long

since grown away from the beach. His meat sticks were long gone, given to aspiring, would-be newcomers while he concentrated his efforts on fishing from boats. Funny thing about boats though, even though they produced greater catches more consistently than the beach did, he never did get quite the same satisfaction as he did when he caught a helluva lot less from the beach. Maybe it was the challenge, he thought, or maybe it was because he had been surfcasting for so very long that it was second nature now, as comfortable as an old pair of shoes. Or like the old lady, part of him that he would be lost without. Whatever the reason, it was the right place for him to be at that time. He settled for a seven foot, one-piece spinning rod and an intermediate spinning reel filled with brand-new 12 pound test mono. The lures he chose were five inch swimming plugs, half-ounce popping plugs, and a couple of metal lures in the one ounce class. He'd sacrifice distance for convenience, he thought, knowing full well that big plugs and heavy tin would be out of the question with the tackle on hand.

A cyclone fence surrounded the property where he wanted to fish, but he knew from past experience that one section of that fence could be lifted up enough to crawl under. Naturally, he did so. As he walked down to the beach, his boots slid on the almost-forgotten stones strewn throughout the sand; smooth, round stones that could make a guy sprain an ankle if he wasn't careful. He walked a bit slower. No sense getting hurt at this late stage of the game, he reasoned. As he neared the water, sights, sounds, and smells once considered forgotten triggered his memory banks. He smiled at the gull nesting in the sedge on the far dune; it was nowhere near mating time, yet she was as busy as she was each spring, keeping house with her beak as she sat on non-existent eggs. A faint pitter-patter, like raindrops falling, drifted to his ears, the sound of baitfish spattering the surface—porbably sand eels showering, he thought. And he caught the faint whiff of watermelon on the mild onshore breeze, the tangy aroma a bit more pungent now, reminding him of the way that bluefish used to smell when they were surface-feeding.

Funny thing, he thought, the way different fish each had different smells: bluefish always smelled like watermelons, he remembered, and striped bass reminded him of spices—sage and thyme, to be exact. Weakfish had their own distinct odor too, he mused; not quite like the watermelon smell of bluefish, more like sour cucumbers maybe, or so it always seemed to him anyway. But he could tell better by listening than by smelling, especially at night. Many times a school of bunker would fool him into thinking they were bluefish (they smelled almost exactly alike to him), but his ears never deceived him. The popping sound that weakfish made was different from the slurp of surface-feeding bass, and not nearly as exciting as the splashing racket bluefish made. Years of fishing at night had made him an expert; his nose and ears were radar and sonar when he couldn't see in the dark.

As he reached the water's edge, he scanned the beach. First he checked-out his entry area, making certain the path he chose would be fairly uncluttered of rocks and stones. He read the water, trying to gauge the distance to the bar slightly offshore, searching for the dark water denoting deep holes, watching the waves for any indication of breaks, sloughs, or gullies. Far off, down the beach to the east, he made out the distant shape of the four smokestacks pinpointing the

"And he caught the faint whiff of watermelon on the mild onshore breeze, the tangy aroma a bit more pungent now, reminding him of the way that bluefish used to smell when they were surface feeding."

Lilco power plant. Closer by on his left was a huge, green promontory with a white lighthouse perched on top: the Coast Guard Station at Eaton's Neck, about a half-mile to his west. Snapping on a swimming plug, he shuffled into the water. There were no visible signs of fish. Still, he knew that late season bass were regularly taken from that area, and some jumbo bluefish often hung around if the water didn't get too cold.

The initial shock of immersion caught him by surprise. He had forgotten how cold he used to get in those old waders. It was too bad that he never got around to buying a pair of the newer, insulated waders, but he had become lax about the beach when he got involved with boats. He was happy that the waders didn't leak. At least he was dry, he thought—cold, but dry. He sidled along an inshore bar in that crablike shuffle he had developed, striving for the outer edge where he might be able to reach some deeper water. The tide was far from being ideal; it was about halfway down on the ebb and it was a moon tide, so it would really be low before long. He started getting nervous; he couldn't reach quite where he thought a slough was, and the tide was dropping too fast for comfort. He reeled in the swimming plug and replaced it with one of the metal lures, a "tin" he had made several years ago, a miniature version of a J-8 he had painfully created out of solder and lead.

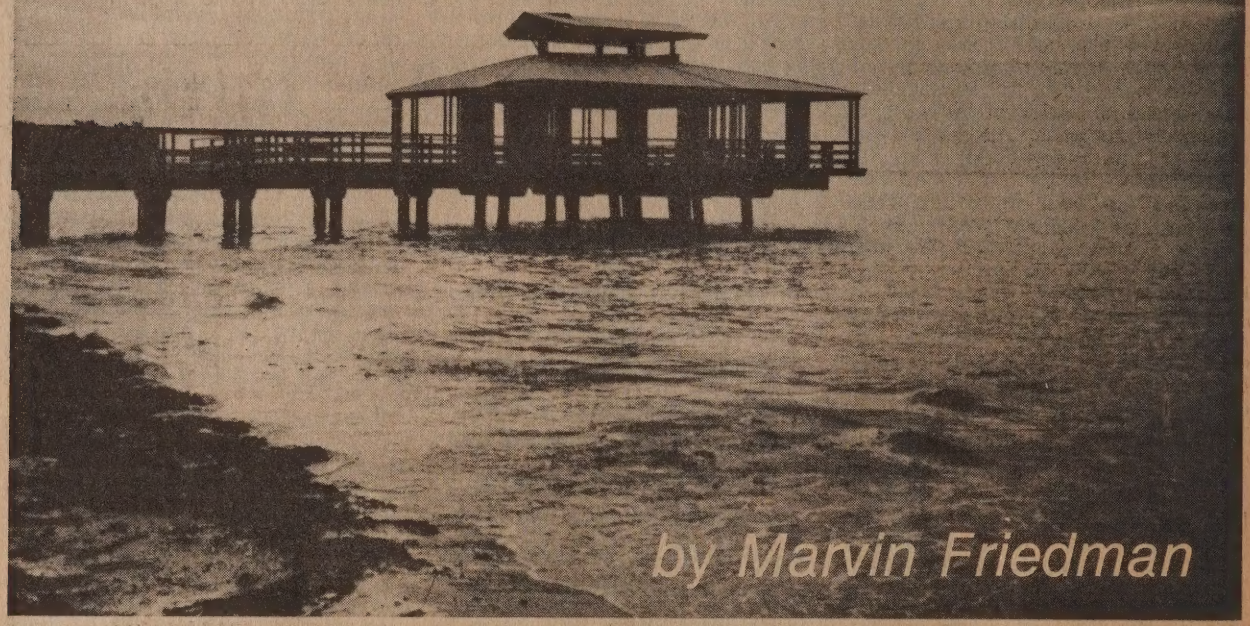
Cursing the spinning tackle as inadequate, although he probably couldn't handle heavy conventional surfcasting tackle any more anyway, he got off a nice cast that splashed-down on the outside edge of the patch of dark water he was aiming for. "Not bad," he thought, "not even for a guy in my condition." What was his condition, he mused. True, he had cancer and had gone through some major surgery, two surgeries in fact, but they had removed the tumors. He had extensive radiation treatment to cancel out any cancer left in his lymph nodes, but there was no way of knowing if the radiation was successful or not. He was amazed when the oncologist tried to explain that to him. All they could do was give the prescribed amount of dosage proven successful on previous patients, and hope for the best. That was hot stuff! HOPE for the best! Whatinhell did they think he would do anyway—give up?

He dragged the lure back through the gravel and sand bottom, jigging it slightly once in awhile to make it look like a sand eel to some hungry fish. Or so he hoped. When he got too close, he cast the tin out again and let it settle to the bottom before he began another slow retrieve. Still, no takers once again. "What do you want anyway, stupid, a guarantee?" he yelled out loud to himself. "There ain't no damned guarantees in this damned world! You know that by now, don't you?" He knew it all right, perhaps better than most. They told him that there was a high incidence of recurrence with the type of cancer he had. In other words, he would probably get it back within a year or so—they weren't sure.

At first, he was bitter as hell. "Why me?" he thought. Then, slowly, he came to realize that no one has any guarantees in this world. We all get put here for a certain length of time and nothing and no one but God can change things, so better make the most of it. What sense is there of living another twenty years, if everyday is only one more day of running scared? That's not living anyway! Better to enjoy each new day as it comes, better to live while you're still alive! That's why he went through all that nausea and diarrhea during radio-therapy; that's why he lost all his hair. Well, the sickness went away and the hair grew back, and he was feeling pretty damned good inside—good enough to love what he was able to do.

He thought he felt a slight bump near the end of the last retrieve, so he cast out and started retrieving once again. And he would keep casting and trying, today, tomorrow, next week, next year! He was happy to be alive. Happy to be fishing again. And happy just being lucky enough to be home for the holidays!

KEY WEST BUDGET HOLIDAY



by Marvin Friedman

Sometime ago, there was an article in The Fisherman about Key West. It sounded wonderful. I had taken a week's vacation last summer, and was entitled to another week. I debated a trip to the Caribbean, but discovered that it would be too expensive for a single individual, since most of the "bargain rates" advertised were for two persons, double occupancy. I decided on Key West instead.

First, I called the Key West Visitors Bureau (305-294-2857). They were very helpful, and sent me a wealth of information, listing hotels, motels, guest houses, fishing boats, and much more. I looked this over, and called a small guest house that looked interesting, and whose rates were reasonable. The Mer-Linn Guest House on Simonton St. (305-296-3336) had one single room available, and would be glad to reserve it for me for the week, confirmed on my American Express Card.

Next came flight reservations. I used a travel agent, and was able to make reservations to and from Ft. Lauderdale, which is about 30 miles north of Miami, for $168 round trip. I could have made a connecting flight to Key West, but for about the same money, I elected to rent a car instead. The car rental was $49 for the week.

Since my regular car insurance covers me, I did not elect to take their insurance as well, which would have cost far more. Only collision coverage would not be included, and I would recommend that either you take just the collision, or if you don't, drive carefully, and pray.

I arrived at Ft. Lauderdale, after an uneventful flight, picked up my car with no trouble, and was off. I might add that I had reserved a compact car, but when I got to the rental office, they advised me that, since it was late, I could have my choice of either a Camaro, or a Buick Regal, for the same rate. Thank you, Alamo, I took the Regal and took off for Key West. About 150 miles south of Miami, via US 1, and 3½ hours from Ft. Lauderdale, and I was in Key West.

First stop was the Mer-Linn. Rooms range, in season, from $35 to $69 per night, and can accommodate from one to six people. My room, the only single, was the only one that was not air conditioned, but it had a ceiling fan. I really did not feel the lack of air conditioning, but I would imagine that later in the season it would be necessary. Of course, later on, out of season, the rates are less also. My room was clean, comfortable, and very adequate. After all, all I did was to sleep there. The rate included some extras. Breakfast each morning included fresh, homemade quiche, fresh baked biscuits and muffins, coffee, juice, and jelly. If you come down early, just walk in to the kitchen and pour yourself a cup of coffee while you wait for everything else to be ready.

Each evening, about 8PM, Jay Richards would come into the main room, sit down at a white baby grand piano and entertain the guests with his playing and singing, including some of his own compositions. A top professional performer, and a very nice and accommodating individual, his performances were warmly received by the guests present. A delicious punch, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres were served as well.

The small but adequate pool, with a whirlpool, activated by a button at one end of the pool, located in a beautiful enclosed garden in the courtyard, lounges, plenty of towels, and a relaxed atmosphere, made it totally delightful. Congenial guests there, of all kinds, didn't hurt a bit either. When I arrived there, I was dead beat, not just from the trip, but from the weeks and months preceding it. I spent the first two days just resting, relaxing, with a walk to downtown Key West on Duval Street, which is one block away from the Mer-Linn. Shops there are interesting, and carry a wide variety of merchandise. If your wife comes along, she will delight in it. Sunday afternoon, I walked to the docks, which are about 1/2 to 3/4 miles away, and made reservations for fishing trips.

Monday morning on the Conch Pearl, a head boat ($20) and a good day's fishing. The wind rose up, the weather was fair, waves choppy and a little rough, but grouper, yellowtail, grunt and red spot, amongst others,

came in over the rail. The skipper, JC, Joe the mate, and Celeste, guardian of the galley and general helper, couldn't have been nicer or more helpful. Tackle is supplied aboard. Joe cleaned my fish, froze them, and held them for me until I was ready to return home.

The next day, a split charter, on the Bluefish, from a marina about two miles north of where I was staying ($70), and again the weather was fair, seas choppy and slightly rough, but fishing was fairly good. We caught a few kingfish, dolphin, and a bonito, and did better than the rest of the fleet that day. Again my fish were cleaned, frozen, and held for me by the mate.

Back to the dock, and dinner at the Half Shell Raw bar, where the food was excellent and reasonable, and the atmosphere very informal. By the way, there are many restaurants in Key West, most of them excellent. Wednesday, I just relaxed, and loafed in the sun. Thursday, once again, out on the Conch Pearl, and fishing was better. Celeste had bought a freshly caught tuna and made tuna salad. If you ever try it, you will never eat canned tuna again.

Friday was another loafing day and my last at Key West. That afternoon, I walked to the dock and was there when the Yankee Captain returned from a two day trip to the Dry Tortugas. I was kicking myself for not taking that trip, but there will be a next time. The quantity and size of fish that came ashore were unbelievable. Afterward, when I commented to the mate, who was cleaning up, "A good day's fishing, eh" his reply of "Nah, barely average" really hurt. Reservations are necessary (305-294-7009) weeks in advance.

While at the dock, I noticed two men fishing from the aft deck of the Yankee Captain. One fisherman hooked a tarpon, which made a beeline for the main channel. Quite a ways out and unable to turn this monster, the line finally snapped. There are berths, and a galley aboard the Yankee Captain for your comfort.

Key West had many other attractions. There are guided trips around the island, showing many of its attractions, such as the Hemingway House, on a "trolley" or "conch train." If you are interested, you can sign up for a boat that takes you out to the coral reels, supplies snorkeling gear, and turns you loose for a half day of exploring on your own, at very reasonable rates.

As an unforeseen extra, when I checked in to the Mer-Linn, they gave me a book of discount coupons, redeemable at a large variety of shops, fishing boats, etc. All in all, my vacation cost me less than I had expected. I got exactly what I wanted out of this trip. Badly needed rest and relaxation, plenty of sun, fishing with good results, and what added icing to the cake—congenial people, not only at the guest house, but everywhere I went. I can't wait to return.

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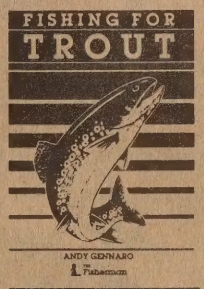

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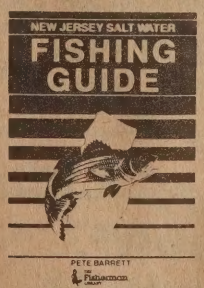

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THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

1 **THIS POPULAR** MEMBER OF THE CODFISH FAMILY IS KNOWN AS THE...
NEW ENGLAND HAKE ☐
SILVER HAKE ☐
FROST FISH ☐
WHITING ☐

2 **STRIPED BASS,** NOW IN A SERIOUS DECLINE, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN GOOD SUPPLY IN THE NORTHEAST.
TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

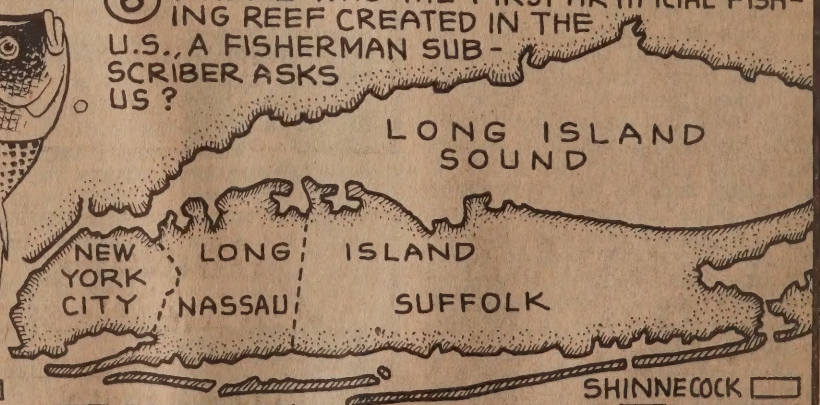
BY FRED GUARDINEER

3 **MOURNING DOVES** ARE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES BECAUSE OF OVER HUNTING.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

4 **SANDEELS AND SHINERS** ARE GENERALLY SOLD AS FROZEN SALT-WATER BAITS, BUT WHEN SERVED UP AS A DINNER TABLE DELICACY, THEY ARE CALLED
_____

5 **THE BLUEGILL** IS A...
CRAPPIE ☐
SUNFISH ☐
PERCH ☐ BASS ☐

6 **WHERE** WAS THE FIRST ARTIFICIAL FISHING REEF CREATED IN THE U.S., A FISHERMAN SUBSCRIBER ASKS US?



☐ ROCKAWAY
☐ MACALISTER
SHINNECOCK ☐
☐ MORICHES
☐ FIRE ISLAND

1 - ALL FOUR NAMES APPLY. **2** - FALSE. STRIPED BASS DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY FROM THE NORTHEAST FROM 1903 TO 1936. **3** - FALSE. THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN SO NUMEROUS AND HUNTERS TAKE LESS THAN 5%. **4** - WHITE FISH. **5** - SUNFISH. **6** - THE FIRST ARTIFICIAL FISHING REEF CREATED IN THE UNITED STATES WAS THE MACALISTER GROUNDS IN 1950 OFF LONG BEACH, ACCORDING TO CAPT. AL LINDROTH.

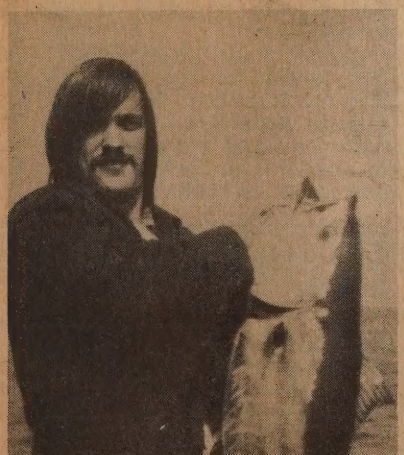
East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

Billions of bluefish are still congregated at Montauk, westwards to Shinnecock, but are showing signs of getting the urge to move out. Catches of bass remained steady between windstorms, with top weights reported over 20 lbs. the past week. Blackfishing is getting better, with fish over 12 lbs. caught over the weekend on boats leaving Sag Harbor and Montauk. Flounder are becoming more prominent in the fishing reports. A good run has started in the Shinnecock Canal with increased catches at Noyac, Shinnecock Bay, and Montauk, all dependant on the weather bringing out fishermen. A promising codfish season is ahead, as soon as northerly winds move out the doggies.

MONTAUK

Carl Darenberg at the **Montauk Marine Basin** spoke of very good catches of blackfish made by Captain Steve Sekora on Sunday. The fish ranging to 12 lbs. in weight, were caught on Cartright. A full supply of foul weather gear, warm fishing clothes and safety equipment is now in stock at the Marine Basin, which will be open all winter.



Brian Ehlers hefts a 43 lb. bluefin tuna caught while jigging at the Butterfish Hole aboard the Montauk based "Nostalgia II."

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THE FISHERMAN...

The Difference Between Just Fishing & Catching Fish

Joan at **Captain's Cove Marina** said that there is continuing good black fishing at the southwest ledge, with bass and bluefish action continuing high.

Foul weather curtailed codfish trips on the **Viking Starship** this week. On the only day the boat was able to get out (Sunday) a few cod were taken. Call Captain Forsberg for an up to date report on sea conditions before making the trip to Montauk. He will sail for cod all winter.

Captain Fritz Hubner has finished the season with a good catch of bass and blues on the **Mistress Too**. Capt. Hubner thanks all his customers for helping make 1984 a banner fishing year. The **Mistress Too** will open the 1985 season in April, starting with cod and pollock.

Captain Chuck Mallinson is booking codfish trips on the **Joy-Sea** and has a few openings. A bass trip last Monday with Keith Reiter resulted in 11 bass kept, a few returned under 24 inches. So many blues were anxious to be caught that the group released about 100 after the cooler was full. Captain Mallinson feels that the inshore fishing will remain good for the next few weeks, with blues eventually thinning out. Call the **Joy-Sea** for information on winter rates.

The **Bluefin IV** was only able to get out twice the past week, due to weather conditions. On Wednesday, a group of L.I. fishermen headed by Mr. Latinski, trolled 8 bass, 2 weighing 25 lbs., the rest in the teens, with very large blues to 15 lbs. in weight. On Sunday 8 bass to 25 lbs. with lots of shorts were found. Big blues to 17 lbs. were still around. Captain Michael Potts will fish for bass at least through Thanksgiving weekend. Call him on the **Bluefin IV** for details.

Captain Harry Dawkins has found fair fishing for cod, pollock, and blackfish at the Southwest Ledge. The **Frances Anne II** will remain in the water all winter and will be available for charter. Call Captain Dawkins for information on codfish charters.

SOUTH FORK

Beginning the weekend, the **Wilhelric** will fish for blacks on Saturday and Sundays. Captain Artie Lach has described this blackfish season as one of the best in recent memory. When winds subside enough to get out, anglers are averaging dozens of blackfish per man, with an extraordinary number over 10 lbs. in weight. Although Saturday was a blow-out, Sunday's trip was RED HOT. David Roys of Coram, a regular on the boat, caught 21 blacks. Pedro Lorance of Long Island City went home with 17 fish, the largest over 11 lbs. The pool was taken by a fish over 12 lbs. All were caught on Mad Dog Reef.

Harry at **Noyac Marina** found nice flounder at the fish nets at Jessups

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	6:55	7:15	7:40	8:00	7:25	7:50	8:15	8:50	10:25	11:05	10:10	10:45	6:40	7:05	11/22
FRI.	7:40	8:00	8:25	8:50	8:15	8:40	9:05	9:40	11:15	11:55	11:00	11:30	7:30	7:55	11/23
SAT.	8:25	8:50	9:15	9:40	9:00	9:30	9:50	10:30	—	12:00	11:45	—	8:20	8:40	11/24
SUN.	9:10	9:40	10:00	10:30	9:50	10:30	10:40	11:20	12:45	12:50	12:20	12:35	9:10	9:30	11/25
MON.	10:00	10:30	10:50	11:20	10:45	11:25	11:30	12:15	1:35	1:40	1:15	1:25	10:00	10:20	11/26
TUES.	10:50	11:25	11:45	—	11:40	—	12:15	12:25	2:30	2:35	2:04	2:20	10:50	11:15	11/27
WED.	11:45	—	12:15	12:35	12:20	12:30	1:15	1:25	3:30	3:40	3:00	3:15	11:45	—	11/28
THURS.	12:20	12:35	1:10	1:30	1:15	1:20	2:20	2:25	4:30	4:50	3:50	4:10	12:15	12:40	11/29

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 11/22	6:59	4:34
FRI. 11/23	7:00	4:34
SAT. 11/24	7:01	4:33
SUN. 11/25	7:02	4:32
MON. 11/26	7:03	4:31
TUE. 11/27	7:04	4:30
WED. 11/28	7:05	4:29

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 11/22	6:23AM	4:22PM
FRI. 11/23	7:40AM	5:04PM
SAT. 11/24	8:53AM	5:54PM
SUN. 11/25	9:57AM	6:52PM
MON. 11/26	10:51AM	7:56PM
TUE. 11/27	11:35AM	9:01PM
WED. 11/28	12:10AM	10:06PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
11/22	11/30	11/8	11/16

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	3:40	**9:50**	4:00	**10:15**
Fri.	4:30	**10:50**	5:00	**11:20**
Sat.	5:35	**11:55**	6:05	—
Sun.	6:35	**12:25**	7:10	**12:55**
Mon.	7:40	**1:30**	8:15	**2:00**
Tues.	8:40	**2:30**	9:15	**2:55**
Wed.	9:35	**3:25**	10:05	**3:50**
Thurs.	10:30	**4:20**	10:55	**4:40**

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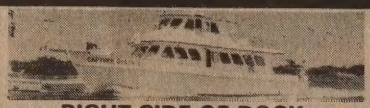

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SPEEDY VII
SEABASS & BLACKFISH
7 AM DAILY
Capt. Nick Manzari
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Neck and also in Noyac Creek. The Marina will be open all winter.

The word from **Corr's Fishing Station** in **Hampton Bays** is that fishing picked up, during the brief spells of nice weather last week. Flounder of 1-1½ lbs., with some pushing 2 lbs. were caught in the Basket and also near the Indian Reservation. Best tide was top of the incoming.

Mickey Altenkirch spoke of excellent flounder in the Canal, with some of the fish weighing over 1½ lbs. The excellent fishing should last another couple of weeks at least, since water conditions are just getting good. On Saturday, bluefish to 15 lbs. were taken in and outside Shinnecock Inlet. When fishing Shinnecock Canal, you will want to time your trip to the lock closings. A tide calendar can be picked up at **Altenkirck & Son** which shows the approximate time of canal lock closings until the end of December.

Jeff Corey, chief mechanic at **Ralphs Fishing Station** will demonstrate the winterizing of an outboard motor on Fishing Forecast this week (Brookhaven Cable TV-Friday 6 p.m.) If you would like a free Bassbuster lure, drop me a postcard at P.O. Box 620 Port Jefferson Station, N.Y. 11776.

South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Flounder are rapidly becoming the sole target of anglers inside the bays while the past week witnessed a surge in codfishing over offshore wrecks. Acres of blues worked west along the beaches on several occasions last week but few boatmen appeared to be paying much attention to the big choppers at this late date in the season.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Larry Dallaire of **L & M Marine** in **East Moriches** reported real big flounder but no numbers. Many of the fish that are being taken are in the 1½ to 2 pound range but the quantity just isn't there yet. Larry feels all of the wind we've been having has been a big factor and is hopeful that the fishing will improve with some calming weather. Also, the tide situation this past weekend was poor which means this coming weekend will have good tide conditions. Fish are being caught in Hart's Cove, Haven's Point and Buoy 42 on blood or sands and mussel chum. Larry reminded that he will have boats available, including

cuddy cabin models, all winter long. The past two winters have produced some excellent flounder action. Anyone looking to shake loose some cobwebs should phone ahead to reserve a boat. The number is 516-878-4777.

Reporting for the **Moriches** open boats **Alma** and **Alma III**, Rosemary Fedorco said that while strong winds have hurt the flounder fishing, the fish that are being taken are all big with most in the 1½ to 2½ pound class. The Alma has been fishing buoys 42, 44 and 45 with both clam and worm baits. The Alma III, which is sailing for cod on weekends said that this action is showing signs of coming to life and that big blues are still being taken on the cod trips. Capt. Ron, his wife Linda and all the crew from the Almas would like to extend a Happy Thanksgiving to all of their customers.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Flounder are getting most of the attention now but there haven't been a lot of guys fishing due to the winds, according to Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. Lots of blues migrating along the beaches for jiggers and trollers if you haven't already had your fill. No word on blackfish this week.

Al Colban at **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** reported a decent pick of cod on the wrecks in recent days. Most of the fish being taken are in the 10-20 pound class. Some pretty good flounder action at Buoy 2-Dickerson Channel and also on the flats south of Good Samaratin Hospital. Also some fair catches being made in the State Channel between Babylon and Lindenhurst. A few big flatties being taken by clam diggers off of Heckscher. Just a few blacks left on bay wrecks and reefs but they are big. Bait is the main problem here. For freshwater fans a few nice trout in the 14-15 inch range coming out of Bubbles and Rattlesnake Creek and some nice size perch coming out of the tidal reaches of the Connetquot.

Over at **Captree** a good showing of cod on the offshore wrecks provided a shot of adrenalin for open boat anglers. Several skippers reported good results with the winter king.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** reported being weathered out on Saturday but saw very good results on Sunday with all of his fares managing at least a few cod. Hi-hooks finished with 10. Most were in the 8-12 pound range but the pool winner weighed in at 27 pounds. Gordon fished a pair of wrecks south of F.I. Inlet.

Capt. Ken Higgins of the **Captree** open boat **Speedy VI** had his banner day for his first trip of the season on Sunday. Working a couple of wrecks an hours ride southeast of the inlet,

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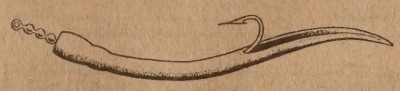

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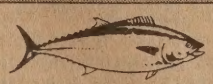
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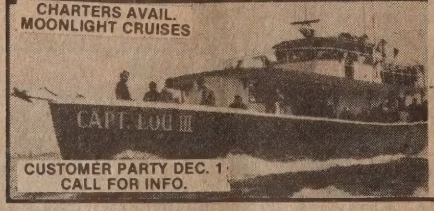

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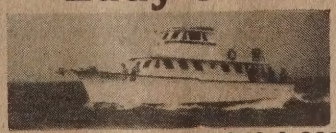

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Jason Mandel and Adam Ashinoff pose with an 80 lb. tuna decked by Jason aboard the Freeport based, "Paradise."

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WATCH FOR WEEKLY FISHING CONTESTS

The Salty Fly Rodders of New York made their annual October trek to Martha's Vineyard and were rewarded with some fine bluefish action. Jimmy DiGregorio shows four big blues that he bagged on the long wand at Gay Head. Subscriber photo.

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Ken reported over 150 cod from 10-30 pounds for 15 fares. Hi-hook for the day was Frank Catalano with 19 cod. Angel and Mike Escabar teamed to take 31 cod between them. Also taken during the day were 50 sea bass and a couple of dozen big bluefish.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty 3** managed to beat the weather on Saturday and returned with 46 cod. Phil Bloom led the way with 11 fish. On Sunday's trip, Frank Bodinsky repeated with 11 cod while a total of 80 fish came over the rail. George too is fishing a couple of favorite offshore wrecks and noted that there are a good number of 18-20 pound class fish making up the catches. The boat's Cod Derby is up to $125 with a 27 pounder currently leading the way.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** will join the cod hunt this Wednesday (11/21). He noted a good showing of cod over the weekend over some of the offshore wrecks. He has been finding a slow but steady pick on blackfish with a few sea bass mixed in but the codfishing looks solid enough to make the switch.

Capt. Richie Leitch of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Leitch** called to say that he is wrapping it up for the '84 season. The boat is headed for the shipyard for refitting and painting so that he'll be ready to go when the spring flatties begin poking their heads out of the mud. Richie wishes to extend his thanks and wishes for a happy holiday season to all of his customers.

According to Fred Austin of **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, things have quieted down considerably with just a few guys out for blackfish and flounder in all the wind. Some fair flounder action when the winds don't blow and a decent showing of cod on offshore wrecks, including the San Diego and Hilton Castle. Lots of blues still on the wrecks and taking clam baits meant for cod. If you are still looking for blues, plenty of big choppers were moving west along the beaches this past week.

From **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, Mike Andreani reported some decent catches of flounder on the north side of the bay off of Lindenhurst, Bergen Point and Indian Island. Best bet is to chum in 4-5' of water. Mike also noted the presence of big blues along the beaches for anyone still looking to do some trolling or jigging.

Ralph Angelillo of **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** told of looking over a couple of excellent flounder scores this past week. They came from the State Channel near Amityville and also from around Squaw Island. Clam belly chum seemed to be the key and the size of the fish was impressive as the numbers. Ralph also knew of a couple of good white perch scores that came from Drews Creek in West Islip.

Pretty good pick of flounder on the flats off of Babylon and Lindenhurst according to Bob Rose at **Bob's Tackle Shop** in **Amity Harbor**. Worms or clams and clam chum are the key to the fishing. This is about the only action that came their way this past week.

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West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

With giant bluefish continuing to abound off the south shore beaches, codfishing has gotten off to a very good start. On Sunday all of the party boats that had the cod signs out caught cod on local and offshore wrecks. The run of fish has been generally from 8 to the mid-30 lb. range and the numbers of fish in proportion to the number of anglers is not bad. Flounder has been sort of mediocre to good this week as has the blackfishing.

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WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

A call from the **Capt. Al** out of Freeport told of a total catch of 43 cod Saturday including a 32 lb. pool fish. Sunday's body count was 60 cod with a 36 lb. pool winner. The skipper was very enthusiastic about the cod prospects for the season since every trip sailed from Thursday on saw codfish caught on every drop, indicating a good scattering of cod in our area. There have been loads of doggies as well. Cod have been running from 6 to 36 lbs. said the skipper.

We hear from Pete Kessinger of the **Starstream II** that while the howling winds kept the boat in all week, on Sunday 25 fares accounted for 71 cod from 8 to 15 lbs. Notable catches included Arthur Loweth of Astoria with a 28 lb. pool winner. Jim Kampuries of Ozone Park with a 27 lber. High hook was Bob Hauck of Brooklyn with 8 cod. Bill Beckmann of Beckmann's Tackle had 5 cod while Chris Yeates of Bellmore had 5 also. They've also been mixed catches of doggies, blackfish and sea bass mixed in.

Word from Capt. Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou III and V** called the floundering good this week. Aboard the full day boat, Tuesday saw Tom Motz with 33 flounder. Wednesday saw Norris Bivano with 60 flatties and on Friday Morty Draluck was happy with 33. On Sunday Ruland Gwntini of Port Washington took a 3 lb. 8 oz. flounder which was weighed in at Capt. Joe's Fish market. He also had 37 other flatties. On the half day boat Monday's PM trip had John DeRose and grandson of Valley Stream with 59 flatties. On the same trip Brian Sullivan had 40 and Kathleen Coffey bagged a 3 lb. pool winner, also weighed in at Capt. Joe's Fish market. Mike says the fish are getting bigger, though catches can be picky some days. Things should get even better as the weather cools down.

Harold Adler displays the 18 lb. blue he caught back in October at Cholera aboard the private boat, "Just Dear." Subscriber photo.

We learn from Capt. Dick Hall of the **Super Spray II** that the cod schedule has changed to 4:30 AM weekends and 5AM weekdays. The wind killed things Saturday but it was a bounce back on Sunday with regular Kenny H taking 9 cod, regular Heinz hoisting 6 cod. Fourteen fares had a total of 53 codfish from 12 to 30 lbs., with the pool in the high 30s. There was also a scattering of doggies, blues sea bass and blacks.

Over in Pt. Lookout, Capt. Ron advised that the weather hurt Friday and Saturday's fishing. However, Thursday's AM trip saw regular Howie with 35 taking high hook honors. Most of the other fares had nearly as good catches. On the PM trip regular Sal had 27. Saturday saw Rick Murray with 18 and Ed Weiss with a 2 lb. 3 oz pool winner and Peg Ross with 35. Ron says he will be

Will Baribault used a black back, sinking Rebel to connect with this 16 lb. striper in the Atlantic Beach surf. Photo courtesy of Skippy's Bait and Tackle in East Rockaway.

sailing Thursday (Thanksgiving) morning, and he also thanks all who contributed to making the Derek Hawkins Day a success for the boy and his folks.

Aboard the charter boat **Marie III** Sunday's bluefish trip saw an excellent catch for Ken Krebbs and group. Fishing bait at Cholera, alligators 10 to 20 lbs. were chummed up. Pool winner was Norman Padmore with a 21½ lber. Mitch Thompson was high hook with 15 big blues. Tom Monopoli had 12 while Mr. T a first time, had 10 and Rich Nathaniel, another first timer, bagged 12.

A brief word from **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook told of fair floundering during the week in Reynolds and the same description of blackfishing at the bridges and jetties.

NEW YORK BIGHT

A call to **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** caught Skippy with a mouthful of bolonga and cheese on white, but he was still able to tell us of the loads of big bluefish being caught all along the south shore beaches. For the most part, the flounder and blackfish action through Sunday was from poor to good on the inside.

Sailing out of Howard Beach, the **Captain Mike** told of excellent flounder catches Saturday and Sunday in his Jamaica Bay honey holes. Steve Figueras of Ozone Park topped off with 53 flatties. Mike said the fish are bigger now with fish over 2 lbs. taking the pools. Please note that the boat will be sailing weekends only through the end of December.

To the west in Sheepshead Bay the Wee Willie report from **Mike's Tackle** told of excellent blackfish continuing to be caught aboard the **Pilot II**. Whatever boats are bluefishing are catching them to the brim and the biggest kind. A 32 lb. striper was taken on a live bunker by Bill Ewin early in the week around Breezy Point.

Captain Butch of the **Zephyr** who is now sailing Saturday, Sundays and holidays. Note that the boat will be sailing Thanksgiving Day plus the day after. On Sunday, Capt. Butch worked the Seabright area with decent blackfish catches, good anglers taking 15 to 30 fish a man up to 6 lbs. You just had to pick away all day long said the skipper. He also said there are a few really outsized specimens around.

Word from skipper Al Coley of the **Betty W. III** advised that he has sailed his last bluefish trip for the season and has left them biting. The boat is now starting its codfishing program fo the season with 3 trips per week in the offing. See ad for details.

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

With waters on the Sound slowly cooling into the mid-50's, blackfish action remains at near-peak, and flounder fishing has been somewhat slow to get started. The best bass action is out to the east, but a few bass were registered from Eatons.

WESTERN SOUND

Larry at **Johns Gun** in **New Rochelle** said that there were still tautog around docks and piers on the changes of tide and that he still had sandworms for flounder. A 20 pound slammer blue was taken by an angler fishing for bottom fish, porgies, and two 18's were registered by trollers. Until Sunday the **Klondike VIII** did very well on blackfish working off Eatons' 11B and 24C. The last sailings for Pete Pearson's big boat will be on Saturday and Sunday.

John DiCuffa at **Jack's Bait** on **City Island** spoke of tons of blacks and flounder with the flatties along the shoreline and in Orchard Beach Lagoon. The tautog off the CBS Tower and the Lighthouse are in 30-40 feet of water. DiCuffa informs us that the **North Star** is still loading up on 4-6 pound blackfish off the Connecticut shore with occasional 10 pound bulldogs. Both the **North Star** and Dom Cerbone's **Apache** will be sailing through the next weekend before quitting. Cerbone "had a lot of fish every day on good tides" last week, despite the winds. The **Apache** was working off Norwalk in 70 feet of water and was pleased by the late season bounty. One porgy was registered on Sunday among the

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catch, and the boat will be sailing every day this week except, of course, Thanksgiving.

Joe Ferrara of the **Sea King** made the last sailing of the season for blackfish off Norwalk over the weekend. Fishing was in 38 feet of water for fish of all sizes up to 10 pounds. Some fares had 10-12 while others had 5 fish per rod with most fish lip hooked and lots of bergall interference.

The **Glen Cove Sport Shop** found flounder action still very strong in Dosoris Pond and in the Harbors. Bass fishing around Center Island was active at night on Rebels or worms, but the large numbers of schoolies were mostly shorts. Some 10's and 20's are expected soon by optimists. Everett Johnson and Artie Miller recorded a genuine 2 pounder flounder from the Pond.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

A call to the Valentines from **Four Winds** revealed that the blackfish angling off Eatons' 11B in 56-58 degree water was still good and that some bass were being bucktailed and taken on jigs as well.

Bowmans will continue to stay open 10-2:00 on Sunday and 9-6:00 on Saturday but will be closed on Thanksgiving. They are out of worms and crabs with only frozen clams remaining.

Sutlers in **Port Jefferson** still liked the blackfishing around 11A, Old Field, and Cranes. Anglers should now move offshore toward the bell buoy for best catches. Flounder fishing from the piers has remained good.

Bill at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** is still reporting an occasional bass with a 30 topping the local catches. Blackfishing has been good around Cranes on small fish, but a few larger tautog were mentioned from the Shoreham Pipe. Flounder pounders are pulling small fish from Port Jeff Harbor, Mount Sinai, and the end of the Shoreham jetty. Beach fans were traveling to Shinnecock and Montauk.

Ralph's Fishing Station in **Mount Sinai** was still in business all the time with worms, crabs, and frozen clams. Not too many flounder were reported yet, but blackfish were still close in 30 foot depths. The Middle Grounds shoal was the favorite, some 7 miles out on the Sound, when you could get there. Some blues ranging from 4 to 10 pounds were being trolled off the Pink House and jigged there as well with AVA 27's.

NORTH FORK

Ed Kopack at **Warren's** in Aquebogue reported "zilch" in rotten weather. Even creek reports for

A recent trip aboard the Greenport open boat, "Brand X," produced this pool winning 8 lb. blackfish for Ed Jacina of Forest Hills.

flounder are skimpy and there was nothing along the beaches. Warren's still had sandworms and frozen clams.

The **Port of Egypt** in Southold closed for the season on Sunday. Only a few private boats remain in the water with blackfishing the chief attraction.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in Greenport called to tell us that Stan Nickerson was the winner of the rod and reel drawing at Gene's Dockside Restaurant and that George Porter has finished off his **Brand X** season with a charter for the Center Moriches Fishing Club. Catches were very good through the weekend, despite Saturday's wind and Richie Jensen of the **Nancy Ann**, who has now racked up his rods feels that there are still a couple of good weeks left on tautog.

Water temperature were around 54 degrees on Sunday and tautog were everywhere—Plum, Gull and points east. A lot of 8-10 lb. fish were still in catches and occasional slammer blues were still chopping up small blackfish on their way to the top. Small Bass, taken while drifting, were noted in the sluiceway.

The **Peconic Star's** Dave Brennan reported a banner day for anglers Smith, Anderson, and a group from Brooklyn. Matt Anderson himself had more than 20 large tautog to 9 lbs. and the largest fish aboard was an 11 lber. Paradoxically fish tended to be lightly hooked and lots of bait had to be used. Fishing was in the New London area in water depths between

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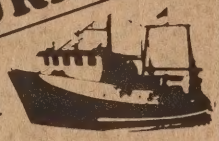

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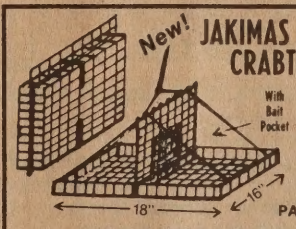

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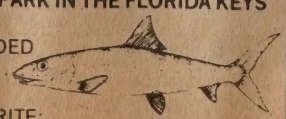

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70 and 130. "Finest fishing in ten years," says Brennan.

John Rainis of the **Blue Albatross** also reported a terrific Thursday with fish from local waters. Sunday was another good one with a 13 lber. in the haul. Heavy outgoing water this weekend required some sinkers to 16 oz. around Plum and Gull, although much of the New London fishing was possible with only 6 to 12 oz. Some catches were still recorded in water as shallow as 30 feet.

The last sailings of the Greenport open boats will be as follows: November 25th for the **Peconic Star** and December 2nd for the **Blue Albatross.**

Surf REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

While many surfmen have traded rods for guns with the onset of duck and deer season, and many others have simply packed it in due to the cold weather, the fish show no signs of calling it quits just yet. Big blues continued to blitz south shore beaches during the week and over the weekend and a good number of big stripers continue to be culled from the surf at Montauk. With our sources for reports rapidly disappearing, we can only pass on a minimum number of catches. We'll try to stretch it out one more week though its a safe bet that the fishing could easily last another two or three weeks.

Scott Smyth of **Bob's Tackle** in **Amity Harbor** confirmed that there was still solid bluefish action at West End, Jones Beach as well as a few fish being taken at Gilgo. Most of the West End action has been on bunker chunks and Scott himself had some good action there as recently as this past Sunday.

Over at **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague**, Ralph Angelillo noted that casters continue to bang away at big blues at Cedar Beach. One customer showed him 9 slammers taken there on Saturday afternoon. Casters working Robert Moses have been picking away at blues with an occasional school bass taken also. Ralph asks

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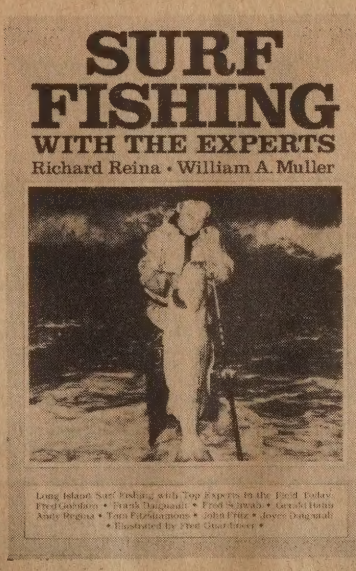

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Ken Moran, POST

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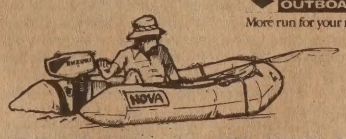

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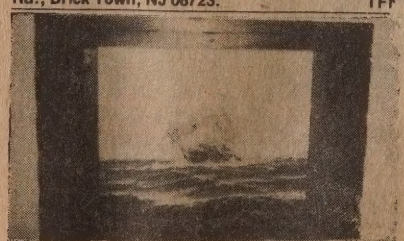

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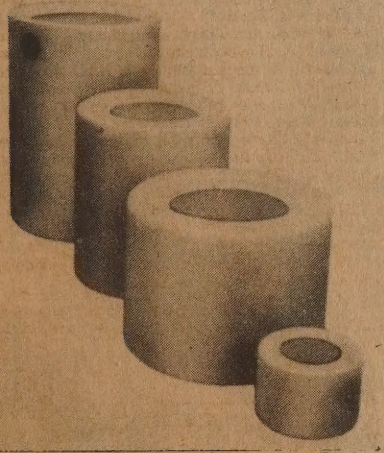

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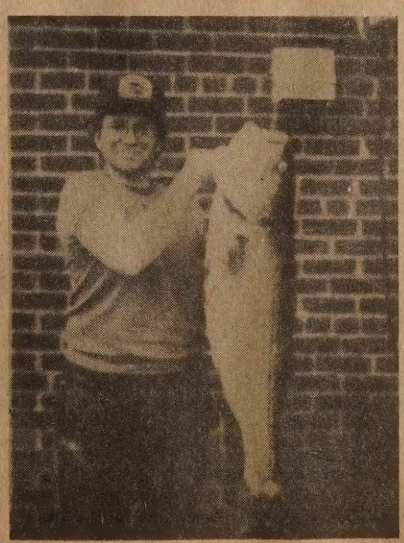
that we notify the people that he just received a second shipment of plastic Superstrike Needlefish plugs in. How long they will last is anybody's guess. You may want to give the shop a call before coming down.

Mike Andreani of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** has been spending some time himself in the local suds. He managed several big blues to 17 pounds on both Wednesday and Thursday at Robert Moses-Field 2. He took the fish on both bait and tins.

Marty Beer and Neil Sleuter, both Great South Bay Anglers Club members, put away 18 blues in the 13-16 pound class on Wednesday at Democrat. All the fish fell for fresh bunker chunks. The following day, they returned with Wally Wachlin and Steve Golofaro. The group teamed to beat over 50 of the slammers between 12 noon and dark. Tins and bait produced equally well on Thursday under true blitz-like conditions.

J & R Sports Center in **Oakdale** reported weighing 4 blues from 15-17 pounds for Rick Woodstock on Thursday. The fish were taken on live eels at Robert Moses Field 4. On Sunday, Al Slavik and his 2 year old son Robert teamed up to put away blues of 14½ and 11 pounds at Robert Moses.

Fire Island National Seashore, west of Smith Point Park finally provided some hot action on the weekend. This stretch of beach had been quiet all fall but on Sunday, casters working Long Cove enjoyed a real blitz on big blues and scattered school bass all afternoon. Average size of these fish is 14-16 pounds. Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** who reported this action said that Dave Ebner and Jeff Mayer cashed in on the wild action. They reported equally good results with tins and plugs. The fish were well spread to the east as well as Dean Stahman and Mike Demma



Vincent Badame of Middle Village, Queens, hefts the 33½ lb. cow bass he took on a live bunker while fishing the North Channel Bridge back on October 30. Subscriber photo.

Paul Hoercher of Ridgewood, Queens, with a brace of big stripers taken on plugs at West End Jones Beach. The big cow checked in at 52½ lbs. while the smaller fish weighed 34 lbs. on the scale at Jones Beach Bait Station.

loaded up on big blues on the east side of Shinnecock. Reports of wild fishing also came from beaches in East Hampton and Amagansett. Again, all the fish averaging 14-16 pounds with an occasional monster in the 18-20 pound range mixing in. Unfortunately, few anglers have been cashing in on what may be some of the hottest surf action of the season.

Casters who have given up the striper hunt may well have some regrets based on reports coming off of the east end this past week. Mike Kaland, publicity man for the Striper Surf Club relayed word that fellow club member George Mandarakis racked up an impressive tally of stripers on Wednesday night and again on Saturday night. Wednesday night's work resulted in bass of 34½, 32, 30, 24, 21 and 18 pounds. On Saturday, George returned to take bass of 26, 19 and a smaller fish. All the fish came from the Point's south side. Another Striper Surf Club member, Bill Rothwell, used a homemade plug to nail a 39.5 pound cow on Sunday night.

Hard fishing Steve Bunai continues to work over Montauk's bass population. Heading to the Point on Thursday night, following the catch of a 31 pounder by his brother Dave on Wednesday, Steve nailed bass of 11, 29 and 36 pounds. He too returned on Saturday to add stripers of 34 and 12 pounds to an already impressive season long score. Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** in **Montauk** who reported Steve's fish, noted that all were taken on Needlefish plugs.

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